Hafa Adai!

Saipan Pacific Winds Band's Christmas concert this Saturday. PAGE 3
WSU veterinary team arrives on Saipan. PAGE 4

$1

# Saipan Tribune

20 DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 243

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## KING-HINDS SAYS

# Lack of biz growth self-inflicted

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

RACQUEL FLOYD
Delegate-elect Kimberlyn King-Hinds served as guest speaker during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting yesterday at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom.

Delegate-elect Kimberlyn King-Hinds criticized government hurdles that prevent business growth and job creation as she emphasized the need for government support in her message yesterday as she served as the guest speaker of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom

"Now we ask ourselves, where is your government in this solution? The truth of the matter is that throughout

*See LACK on Page 4*

## AFTER 13 YEARS OF OPEN-AIR EXPOSURE

# NMI Museum places 60 tons of artifacts in 'safer' storage

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
This 2011 photo shows boxes of artifacts and historical material piled in the *pala-pala* at the back of the NMI Museum of Culture and Arts in Garapan.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

For 13 years, 60 tons of local historical material and artifacts were improperly stored, piled in an open-air *pala-pala* just behind the NMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan.

In a conversation with NMI Museum director Leni Leon, he shared that the artifacts and historical materials have been placed in

*See MUSEUM on Page 4*

# FHB wins fraud claims suit vs local car wash joint

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has granted a default judgment in favor of First Hawaiian Bank in its lawsuit against Tianchi Corp., doing business as Jiuzhou Car Wash, in the bank's lawsuit alleging fraudulent claims made by the establishment's customers, resulting in a bank's loss of over $95,000.

Last week, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued a

*See FHB on Page 4*

# 'CNMI rates lowest across Pacific'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. reports that the rates charge for utility service in the CNMI are actually lower compared to other Pacific Island territories.

During a previous CUC board meeting, CUC chief financial officer Betty Terlaje shared that while rates may seem high, CNMI power rates are actually the lowest among the U.S.-affiliated islands in the Pacific.

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## INSIDE

**BUSINESS**
The holiday season is upon us, and Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan invites you to celebrate with a variety of festive dining experiences and exciting events.
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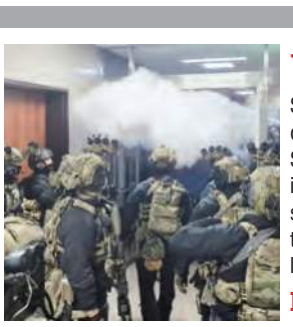

**WORLD**
South Korea's main opposition party on Wednesday urged President Yoon Suk Yeol to resign immediately or face impeachment, hours after Yoon ended short-lived martial law that prompted troops to encircle parliament before lawmakers voted to lift it.
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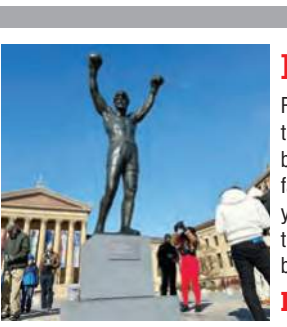

**LIFE & STYLE**
Rocky Balboa fans are ready to go the distance—by bus, by ice skates, by 72 steps—to honor Philly's favorite fictional fighter almost 50 years after the first movie launched the enduring series of an underdog boxer persevering despite the odds.
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# Local

## Kindness Crew spreads joy to Office on Aging with music, dance, shared stories

In an inspiring display of youthful energy and compassion, a group of third and fourth graders from Saipan International School visited the Man'amko Center or CNMI Office on Aging last Thursday, bringing smiles, songs, and dances to the residents. The students, part of a newly formed Kindness Crew, took time out of their busy school schedules to brighten the day of the senior citizens, sharing in a meaningful exchange of joy, culture, and stories.

The visit began with a lively performance as the Kindness Crew, dressed in their SIS shirts and brimming with excitement, sang Hafa Adai and performed a few dances. The children's enthusiasm was contagious, and soon, the elderly residents were clapping along and, some even joining in the dances with the help of their favorite Gecko, MC Mona Celia Mercado, pre-K 3/4 teacher.

After the performance, the Kindness Crew sat with the residents, engaging them in thoughtful conversations and interviews. The children asked questions about the seniors' experiences growing up on Saipan and the changes they had seen over the years. Many residents shared fascinating stories about their childhoods, the island's rich culture, and how life on Saipan has evolved over the decades.

The children listened attentively as a few of the man'amko got up and told the students about Taga and other legends of the islands as well as how important it is to keep their own cultures and languages alive. For many of the kids, it was the first time they had the opportunity to engage with the elderly in such a meaningful way.

"We've learned so much today," said Sophia Kim, a fourth grader in the Kindness Crew. "It's really cool to hear the stories and dance with the man'amko. I can't believe how nice they are and how much energy they have."

In addition to the performances and interviews, the Kindness Crew also shared handmade Christmas cards with the residents. Each card had a personal message of friendship and holiday cheer, crafted by the children as part of their service project. They also gave extra cards so the *man'amko* could give cards out to their families and friends as well.

The Kindness Crew's visit is part of an ongoing initiative by SIS to teach students the importance of empathy, connection, and community service. According to Doris Materne, third grade teacher, the project is aimed at fostering a spirit of kindness among students and encouraging them to take an active role in spreading positivity in their communities.

"We wanted to create an opportunity for our students to experience the value of giving, and what better way than to connect with the people who helped shape our community?" said Materne. "This visit has been a powerful reminder of how much we can learn from one another, regardless of age."

For fourth grade teacher Amie McRoberts, the visit was a heartwarming reminder of the joy that can come from intergenerational connections. Many residents expressed their gratitude for the Kindness Crew's visit, saying it had brightened their day in ways they hadn't expected. They also are looking forward to our return in the future.

Many of the fourth graders said the experience reminded them of the heartwarming stories they see in the "Kindness 101" videos they watch at the beginning of each school day. "It felt just like one of the Steve Hartman stories we watch in class," said Hayun Choi. "You know, where people help and learn from each other. It was amazing to see how the seniors and us kids could connect, just like in those videos. It makes me feel like we can make a difference, too."

The students didn't want to leave. They had so much fun dancing the cha-cha and other local songs with the residents. The Kindness Crew's visit was a beautiful reminder of how simple acts of kindness can make a lasting impact—spanning generations and creating lasting bonds within the community.

SIS' Kindness Crew plans to continue their outreach efforts with other projects in the plans for Christmas. ***(Amie McRoberts)***

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**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
Telephone Numbers 670-234-6866/9447
Fax No: 670-234-9021

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE**

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on **March 12, 2021, Soledad Victoria M. Cepeda**, an immediate family member of **Krishna M. Piol**, an employee of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low to moderate income individuals intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. **Krishna M. Piol**, an employee of NMHC, is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this grant application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before **December 12, 2024.**

Dated this 21st day of November, 2024.

/S/Jesse S. Palacios
Acting Corporate Director

# Saipan Pacific Winds Band's Christmas concert this Saturday

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Saipan Pacific Winds Band will be having its annual Christmas concert in collaboration with the U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific/Pacific Brass Quintet. It will be held this Saturday at the Marianas Beach Resort (former Hyatt Regency Saipan).

The Saipan Pacific Winds Band is comprised of 30 passionate adults as well as students from various schools in the CNMI under the direction of Atsuko Eck and Donovan Tudela. Their ages range from middle school students to *man'amko.*

The U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific/Pacific Brass Quintet is an extremely versatile and portable musical group capable of impactful performances in a variety of settings. Composed of five professional brass players, this group provides and represents the unique tradition of military music and creates lasting impressions at ceremonial and protocol events for our base community. Their vast repertoire includes more than traditional military music, they are also at home performing in a variety of other settings including holiday music and popular music. The group honorably represents the men and women of the U.S. Air Force and takes pride in presenting engaging musical demonstrations for audiences of all ages.

According to Eck, a medley from "Polar Express" and selections from "Wicked" are among the popular music that the group will be performing.

The members of the band are Roberto Santos, who plays the piccolo and flute; Celine Park, and Joan Song on the flute, Joseph Pangelinan on the oboe; Kanani Lee, Cathy Woo, Vivian Chung, Irene Park, and Henry Choi on clarinet; Ruthi Fruit, bass clarinet; Richard Miller, basson; Daniel Guidotti, David Park, Audrein Jenni Mallari, SuJung Ham on alto saxophone; Joseph Pangelinan, tenor saxophone; Luis Moreno Jr., baritone saxophone; Dante Trinidad, David Karch, Willson Gaul, Jihun Park, Takeshi Suzuki, Natalie Ano, and Christopher Bull, trumpet trombone; Noriko Akari Baidya, euphonium; Theodore Parker, tuba; and Miguel Mikko Cruz, Jiho Kong, Xavier Lee, William Lee, Joshua Yoo, William Cano, and Annabella Tudela on percussion.

The Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band was officially incorporated on April 5, 2001. A dedicated group of both young and not-so-young

*See CONCERT on Page 4*

# SCS to host annual Christmas Band Concert today

Saipan Community School invites the community to join us for an evening of festive music at its annual Christmas Band Concert, taking place today, Dec. 5, 2024, starting at 6pm at the Saipan Community Church's chapel.

This year's program promises a memorable celebration of the Christmas season, featuring performances by the Saipan Community School Concert Band, Advanced Band, Flute Choir, Beginning and Intermediate Bands, and the Chorus, joined by special guest musicians and SCS alumni. Highlights include timeless holiday classics such as *Sleigh Ride*, *Carol of the Bells*, and *O Holy Night*, as well as exciting arrangements like *Jingle Bell Jazz* and *Handel Alla Swing* (Hallelujah Chorus).

The event will conclude with a moving rendition of *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, uniting the chorus, bands, and alumni for a heartwarming finale.

**Featured performances include:**

■ Instant Christmas Concert arranged by John Edmondson

■ A Christmas Canon (Pachelbel Canon/The First Noel) arranged by Michael Green

■ Christmas Across the World by Barry E. Kopetz

■ Hallelujah Chorus (Handel Alla Swing) by G.F. Handel, arranged by Jerry Brubaker

This year our goal for Christmas is to reflect on the biblical message of Christmas, inspired by the verse: "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given." (Isaiah 9:6)

Under the direction of SCS Band director Ruthi Fruit, the students have worked tirelessly to prepare a program that highlights their dedication and growth as musicians. SCS principal Amanda Dunn expressed her excitement, saying, "I love it when our students pour their hearts into their performances, and especially when our amazing alumni come back to join the band. We all look forward to sharing the joy of Christmas through music with our island community."

The event is free and open to the public. Families, friends, and community members are encouraged to attend and celebrate the sounds of Christmas together.

**Event details:**

■ What: Saipan Community School Christmas Band Concert

■ When: Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024, at 6pm

■ Where: Saipan Community Church's chapel

For more information or if you are interested in learning more about Saipan Community School and the learning opportunities SCS offers from kindergarten through 8th grade, contact Dunn via email: principal@saipancommunityschool.com call our offices at (670) 234-6687 or visit us on Beach Road in Susupe. ***(PR)***

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P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
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Telephone Numbers 670-234-6866/9447
Fax No: 670-234-9021

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE**

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on November 15, 2023, **Shirley Ada Cabrera and Allan Aldan Cabrera,** immediate family members of **Roy Aldan Ada, elected official and Congressman of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,** applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of individuals who meet the national objective of urgent need and are intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. **Congressman Roy Aldan Ada,** is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this grant application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451. mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before **December 12, 2024.**

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# WSU veterinary team arrives on Saipan

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

In a collaborative effort supported by the USDA NextGen Grant, Saipan Humane Society and the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Animal Health division are welcoming a distinguished veterinary team from Washington State University to Saipan. The partnership aims to deliver critical clinical care for pets, provide hands-on training for local teams, and assess the needs of ranchers caring for food animals.

SHS shared with local media more about the team, with Dr. Jessica Bell, the service lead for WSU's Community Practice team, at the forefront of the visit.

With a specialization in wellness care, preventive medicine, and surgery, Bell's work focuses on educating fourth-year veterinary students and advancing community veterinary practices. Accompanying Bell are veterinary technicians Aleena Nemeth and Nicole Valdez, who bring their unique specializations to the mission. Nemeth, a large animal radiology technician with a passion for teaching, contributes her experience in exotic pet care. Valdez, a WSU technician with nearly two decades of expertise, holds a Veterinary Technician Specialty in Anesthesia/Analgesia and excels in ensuring safe, effective anesthetic practices in clinical and teaching environments.

SHS said that the WSU team will conduct clinical care sessions for pets at the SHS clinic for five days on Dec. 5, 7, 9, 10, and 12.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

## CNMI

*From page 1*

Terlaje, during a Fuel Adjustment Charge presentation, showed a comparison of U.S.-affiliated Pacific Island electric rates.

Based on the chart, Terlaje explained that FAC rates are quite high across the Pacific region, but the CNMI's is actually the lowest.

"These are the rates today, based on their fuel rate adjustments and the base rate combined. We do pay a lot, but I'm glad we are not in other islands paying more," she said.

According to the graph she presented to the board, the electric rates for Maui are $43.31 for residential and $42.93 for commercial; in Lanai, $52.49 residential, $54.16 commercial; in Oahu, $43.22 commercial and $38.69 residential; Hawaii island, $46.52 commercial and $44.14 residential; Chuuk, $52.89 commercial and $55.89 residential, Kosrae, $48.76 commercial and $50.76 residential; Yap, $41.54 commercial and $49.05 residential; Pohnpei, $46.27 commercial and $46.27 residential; American Samoa, $38.95 commercial and $39.86 residential; Palau, $43.50 commercial and $47.70 residential; Guam, $34.09 commercial and $41.39 residential; and the CNMI, $27.49 residential and $32.42 commercial.

The CNMI rates include the FAC, which pays for the fuel that CUC needs to run its power plants.

According to CUC, on Saipan, there are 11,805 residential customers, 3,172 commercial customers, and 794 government accounts for its electrical services.

The FAC is one of two components that make up CUC's electric rate and is strictly for fuel and fuel-related purchases.

The second component is the CUC base rate, which has not increased since April 2014, and is used to fund operations, projects, debt services, or any nonfuel-related expenses.

In 2012 the FAC rate was $0.32910; in 2013, $0.29751; in 2014, $0.31878; in 2015, $0.14445; in 2016, $0.9359; in 2017, $0.16381; in 2018, $0.22317; in 2019, $0.24131; in 2020, $0.0833; in 2021, $0.16578; in 2022, $0.43285; in 2023, $0.22090; and in 2024 $0.21119.

FAC rates changed for each month of 2012 to 2024.

## FHB

*From page 1*

default judgement in favor of FHB in its fraudulent claims suit against Tianchi Corp.

According to Manglona's order, Tianchi was served a summons and a first amended complaint and the time to answer has expired therefore a default judgment was granted.

"Based on First Hawaiian Bank's motion for entry of default and the declaration, and it appearing after examination of the record and pleadings in this action that defendant Tianchi Corp. was duly served with the summons and first amended complaint in the manner required by law, and the time for answering having expired without any answer or response being filed or appearance being made, the default of the Defendant Tianchi Corp. is hereby entered according to law," said the order.

In a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune*, FHB filed a civil lawsuit against Tianchi Corp., doing business as Jiuzhou Car Wash, over allegedly fraudulent claims made by the establishment's customers, resulting in a bank's loss of over $95,000.

FHB filed a breach of contract lawsuit against Tianchi Corp. and its operator, Hong Yong Fu, in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

As relief, FHB is seeking judgment of $95,879.01, plus interest, costs of collection and attorneys' fees.

According to the lawsuit, on or about Oct. 22, 2021, Tianchi submitted to FHB a merchant processing agreement application requesting that FHB provide merchant services, including the provision of a credit/debit card terminal for use by Tianchi at its car wash business on Saipan, Jiuzhou Car Wash.

Once approved, the intent of the application was that Tianchi could swipe customers' credit/debit cards or insert credit/debit cards into the merchant terminal in order to charge the customers' credit/debit card accounts for services provided or goods sold to the customers by Tianchi. FHB would then collect those charges from the issuer of the customer credit/debit cards. This created the merchant agreement between FHB and Tianchi.

Hong, the operator, guaranteed the obligations and performance of Tianchi under the agreement.

Pursuant to the agreement, FHB installed a merchant terminal at Tianchi's business premises and Tianchi started utilizing the terminal to process customer's credit cards and debit card transactions.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

## LACK

*From page 1*

this process of recovery, the hurdles preventing these steps from occurring have been put into place by the government or are influenced by federal policy, how you run your business, who you are allowed to hire to fill your specific needs, and the amount and origin of people who are allowed to be your customers are the decisions of the government," said King-Hinds.

She argued that the Department of Commerce is foundational to society and should be supported by the government to ensure economic stability.

"I don't know about you all, but for many reasons, this seems backward to me, and I'm thinking it seems backward to all of you as well. It's backward because Commerce has been at the core of every society since the dawn of civilization. Our ability to bring our skills, talents, and aspirations to the world, to plan ourselves into this land and find prosperity is foundational to our existence and at the heart of the American dream, Commerce is not just a means to generate government revenue. It is what allows us to live on these islands, to remain in our home, and to thrive as a community."

She then called for higher living standards and regional security, urging the government to remove obstacles and support business growth, and emphasized the importance of transparency and collaboration with the community to achieve shared goals.

"Is it such a wild thought that we should expect our government to support the ability for our businesses, to hire more employees, pay higher wages, and support the growth of our economy and higher living standards for our people, a part of our path toward rebuilding hope is rebuilding our expectations for where we wish our Commonwealth to go. And as your delegate, I will represent everyone in this room and beyond, and to do that effectively, I need you. I need every single one of you. I need your input, your challenges, your ideas, and your solutions."

Furthermore, King-Hinds reiterated her campaign promises including restoring hope, stabilizing the workforce, and modernizing utilities. She stresses the need for community input to think CNMI.

"I ran for delegate to do a job, and we have very limited time to get this job done while the stars have aligned, and I'm asking all of you to be our partner, for all of us to rally together, to all of us think Team CNMI. Think CNMI first. Let me handle the politics, let me get over those hurdles. But the policy needs to be driven by this community."

King-Hinds described the community's struggles, including rebuilding homes with unaffordable roofs and businesses facing fewer customers. She underscored the impact of the pandemic and the ongoing economic challenges, including celebrating small victories like increased hotel occupancy.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

## MUSEUM

*From page 1*

the outdoor *pala-pala* due to a lack of storage.

"Due to lack of a storage facility or repository for the NMI Museum in 2011, the museum director at that time was forced to store all extra artifacts over I think it was 60 tons of artifacts under the *pala-pala* and they remained there until August of 2024."

That's when Leon and his staff started clearing up the *pala-pala* and properly store the artifacts within the museum space temporarily until they figure out a more long-term solution. He shared up until this year, the collection—which contained ancestral remains, residues of flora, fauna, and shell collection for research, pottery, slingstones, and ancient Chamorro and Carolinian tools—had remained under the outdoor *pala-pala* even throughout typhoons and storms.

When *Saipan Tribune* asked whether or not any government or private agency was willing to help, Leon shared, "I don't think it was a matter of no one willing to help but it was just too many artifacts accrued over time and really no funds. It does require a lot of funding to have a repository."

He then shared more about the collection.

"There were ancestral remains, there were rare pottery with ancient Chamorro motifs, motifs that were not identified before. Motif as in a pattern."

He shared that they also discovered a number of collections of residues from ancient flora and fauna supposed to be used for research.

"There are dirt samples and collected samples of residues of flora and fauna whether it's a big shell, whether it's shells or charcoal you know that could give information on the type of food ancestors ate and the ceremonial items they may have had with them when they were buried."

Leon said that during the moving of the collection, he noticed boxes of data which cataloged a lot of the artifacts were damaged as expected due to years of being outdoor.

"We've actually lost proper cataloging of those artifacts. So, we will try our best to identify where each of the artifacts came from and the ancestry remains. It's going to be a process. It's going to take time and some extra process to do it right."

Leon shared that, although their storage situation hasn't really changed since that time, their staff did their best to get the collection out of the *pala-pala* by moving materials that could remain outdoor into one of the outside buildings and the rest of the more sensitive materials placed indoor.

He said he was happy they weren't sitting in the open-air anymore, but overall, he hopes to get as many on display soon.

"So, we are actually working on some ways to use those as means to raise funding so that we can hopefully re-enter all of them into one area at the museum. Our plan at the moment is to establish a memorial site here on the museum lot. So, we'll reenter everything that needs to be reentered. And that's going to require a lot of consultation with community leaders and you know stakeholders within the CNMI government."

According to May 2011 *Saipan Tribune* archives, "hundreds of NMI artifacts improperly stored" and "two containers [were] needed for 6,000 cubic feet (equal to 60 tons) of historical materials."

During a visit to the NMI Museum in 2011, *Saipan Tribune* saw piles of improperly stored collections filled crowded hallways, conference rooms, storage room and "almost all vacant spaces in and outside the building."

Then executive director of the NMI Museum of Culture and Arts, Robert Hunter, shared in that interview that the piles of material are what the museum considered "least valuable" collections. The "Conception materials" collections that are considered the NMI Museum's most prized possessions are kept in secured places.

## CONCERT

*From page 3*

musicians was under the direction and baton of William DeWitt, a passionate and skilled conductor.

Over the past 23 years, the Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band enjoyed performing at public festivals and holiday concerts.

Furthermore, the group has distinguished itself by being called upon to perform at the Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies, providing appropriate music to honor our island residents and those who have served and continue to serve in our armed forces. The group has also hosted the Saipan Wind Band Festival since 2017.

Admission is $5 and doors will open at 4pm and the show starts at 4:30pm.

# NMC Regents chair appointed to serve on national committee

Northern Marianas College Board of Regents chair Charles Cepeda has recently been appointed to the Member Communications and Education Committee of the Association of Community College Trustees.

The ACCT is a non-profit organization whose membership includes 6,500 trustees who serve on governing boards of community, technical, and junior colleges across the United States and beyond.

They serve to promote high-quality and affordable higher education, workforce development training, student success, and opportunities for all individuals toward financial independence and security.

The Member Communications and Education Committee of the ACCT is responsible for evaluating and making recommendations to strengthen the board's links with the membership; identifying issues that require member input; and recommending strategies to gather input.

Additionally, the committee evaluates and makes recommendations to strengthen current ACCT education programs, and recommends additional programs that promote effective board governance through advocacy and education.

Cepeda

"The appointment to the ACCT Member Communications and Education Committee is both an honor and a responsibility that I take to heart," Cepeda said. "This role allows me to work alongside dedicated professionals to strengthen connections within our membership, promote effective governance, and ensure that our educational programs continue to meet the evolving needs of our communities. I look forward to bringing a Pacific Islander voice to the national table, contributing to initiatives that empower community colleges so we can serve our students more effectively."

"We have already begun strengthening the college partnerships within the region through the establishment of the Pacific Islands College Boards, which brings together college trustees from Guam, Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the College of Micronesia-FSM, and American Samoa to collaborate and advocate for our region," Cepeda added. "This appointment will help us collectively advance our advocacy role."

NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero said that Cepeda's appointment to the committee is a testament to Cepeda's dedication and leadership in advancing higher education in the CNMI.

"Chairman Cepeda's involvement will not only strengthen our voice at the national level but also ensure that Northern Marianas College and other institutions from the Pacific continue to benefit from innovative governance strategies and educational programs," Deleon Guerrero said. "Our Proa Tribe is proud of his commitment to serving our students and leading with courage."

For media inquiries, email miguel.dandan@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

# Scheduled power service interruptions on Dec. 5, 6, 10

CUC

The map of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s scheduled power service interruption on Dec. 5 along Beach Road, Saipan.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be scheduled power service interruptions on Dec. 5, 6, and 10, 2024.

**Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024**

- Power Service Interruption Time: 8:30am to 12:30pm
- Area(s) Affected: Beach Road
- Water Well(s) Affected: None
- Wastewater Facilities Affected: S-10
- Traffic Light(s) Affected: None
- Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to replace a 45-foot wooden power pole with a 45-foot concrete pole.

**Friday, Dec. 6, 2024**

- Power Service Interruption Time: 8:30am-11am
- Area(s) Affected: Chalan Laulau, Gualo Rai, As Falipe, Sugar King, and Chinatown
- Water Well(s) Affected: GR-4, GR-5, GR-151, GR-154, and the As Falipe Booster Station (Customers in Gualo Rai may experience low to no water pressure based on tank levels)
- Wastewater Facilities Affected: W-5 and W-6
- Traffic Light(s) Affected: Quarter Master (Middle Road) and Gualo Rai
- Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to replace an Air Break Switch (ABS).

**Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024**

- Power Service Interruption Time: 8:30am-2:30pm.
- Area(s) Affected: Garapan (Kalachucha Ave, Lirio St., and Bukiki Ave.)
- Water Well(s) Affected: None
- Wastewater Facilities Affected: None
- Traffic Light(s) Affected: None
- Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to replace two (2) 45-foot wooden power poles with 45-foot concrete poles, replace a 35-foot wooden power pole with a 35-foot concrete pole, and reinstall transformers.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as it works to ensure reliable service for its customers. For more information, contact CUC's hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit its website, and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. For emergencies, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. ***(PR)***


## Think you've Been Harmed by Products Containing Talc?

**You may have the right to vote on the Plans of Reorganization filed by Imerys Talc and/or Cyprus Mines that determine how Talc Personal Injury Claims against these Debtors are treated.**

**Vote on the Plans by December 16, 2024**

**If you have a Talc Personal Injury Claim, your rights are affected by an upcoming vote on the plans of reorganization ("Plans")** as part of bankruptcy proceedings of Imerys Talc America, Inc., Imerys Talc Vermont, Inc., and Imerys Talc Canada Inc., and potentially Imerys Talc Italy S.p.A (the "Imerys Debtors") and Cyprus Mines Corporation (the "Cyprus Debtor"). Capitalized terms used but not defined here have the meanings ascribed to them in the Plans, which are available at **IandCtalc.com**.

**The Imerys Debtors and the Cyprus Debtor filed Disclosure Statements** (available at **IandCtalc.com**) that contain information to help you decide how to vote on the Plans. Both Disclosure Statements propose that a single combined trust be established to which all current and future Talc Personal Injury Claims will be channeled and resolved according to Trust Distribution Procedures. If you have a Talc Personal Injury Claim, your legal rights are affected if the Plans are approved.

The Imerys Tort Claimants' Committee, the Cyprus Tort Claimants' Committee, and the representatives of future talc claimants for each of the Imerys Debtors and the Cyprus Debtor support the Plans. Anyone with Claims and Equity Interests in all other Classes are assumed to accept the Plans because they are not affected by Plans or they support the Plans.

**If you have a Talc Personal Injury Claim**, you or your attorney are entitled to receive a ballot to vote on one or both of the Plans. Your ballot must be received by Kroll Restructuring Administration LLC **no later than December 16, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time**. If you are unsure that your attorney can vote on your behalf, please ask your attorney.

If you have a Talc Personal Injury Claim against the Imerys Debtors and/or the Cyprus Debtor, it is assumed that you consent to the "Releases by Holders of Claims" set forth in Article XII of the Imerys Plan and/or the Cyprus Plan, as applicable, if any of the following are true:

(1) you vote to accept the applicable Plan,

(2) you vote against the applicable Plan, and you do not opt out of the releases in such Plan, or

(3) you are entitled to vote on a Plan, but you do not vote and do not opt out of the releases in such Plan (subject to certain limitations described in the Plans).

Please read the Plans and other Plan Documents carefully for details about how the Plans will affect your rights if approved.

You have the right to object to one or both of the Plans. The deadline to file an objection is **March 26, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time**. There are requirements that must be followed to file an objection, which are set forth in the Voting Procedures Orders. Objections received after the deadline may not be considered by the Bankruptcy Court and may be deemed overruled without further notice.

**This is only a summary**. For additional information, including obtaining the Disclosure Statements and Plans for review, obtaining solicitation packages with ballots to vote, and other documents, please contact Kroll Restructuring Administration LLC at:

WRITE: Imerys Ballot Processing Center
c/o Kroll Restructuring Administration, LLC
850 Third Avenue, Suite 412
Brooklyn, New York 11232

Cyprus Ballot Processing Center
c/o Kroll Restructuring Administration, LLC
850 Third Avenue, Suite 412
Brooklyn, New York 11232

CALL: (844) 514-9092 (U.S./Canada, Toll-Free)
+1 (646) 777-2352 (International, Toll-Free)

VISIT: IandCtalc.com

EMAIL: IandCtalcInfo@ra.kroll.com

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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**Mark Rabago** EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

# How we build our neighborhoods shapes our communities—and kids' mental health

A September study in the Journal of the American Medical Association illustrates just how interconnected mental health and community truly are. By cross-referencing survey results about emotional well-being from over 2,000 Allegheny County teenagers with the locations of their homes, the study proved that living near community assets like transit lines and schools boosted mental well-being.

The study is essentially a peer-reviewed endorsement of the typically more abstract theory of "third spaces," which are places besides home (first place) and work (second place) where people can socialize—especially if they don't have to pay. American development patterns, especially in suburbia, have generally deemphasized these kinds of places, or made them accessible only by car.

Formally dubbed the "Community Asset Density and Past-Year Mental Health Symptoms Among Youths" study, the extensive report's mappable results straightforwardly demonstrated that "community assets"—encompassing everything from public libraries to barbershops to places of worship—provide anchors of social solidarity, and therefore psychological stability, for young people.

The study placed particular emphasis on the feeling of "hopelessness" among youth. This emotion is revealing for long-term health: Having plans for the future is important and protective for young people, and the study revealed that close access to community assets was correlated with lower levels of despair. In other words, having places to hang out with friends and meet new people provides a feeling of embeddedness in community that buoys hope for a shared future.

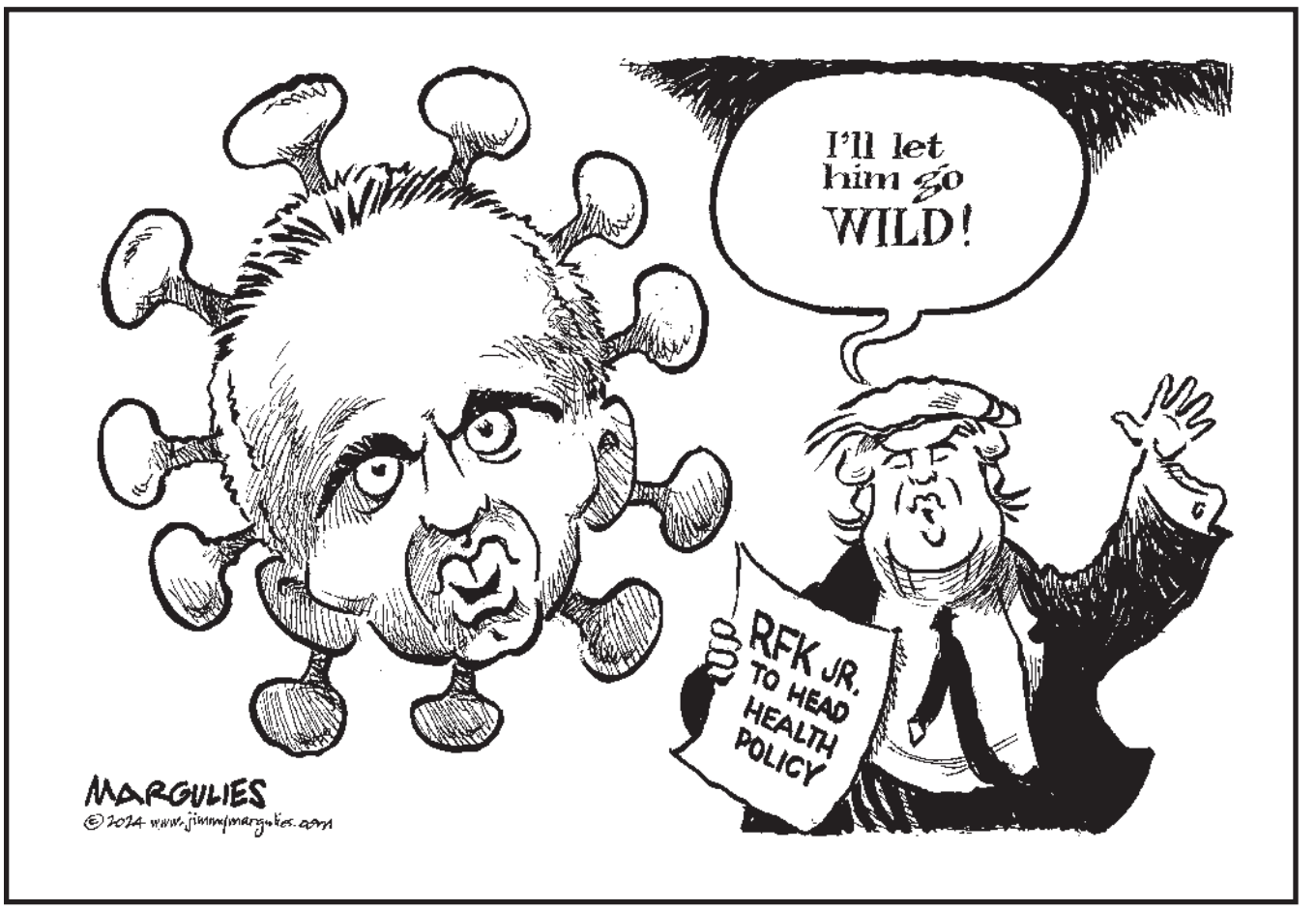
Rather than following in the footsteps of other studies, which have often simply highlighted entrenched inequality and poverty by comparing things like liquor stores and community violence or fast food establishments and body mass index, this latest study does the opposite, focusing on the ways our communities build people up rather than tear them down. Among these assets that correlate to good mental health in teenagers are many that aren't generally associated with youth programming, like doctor's offices and hair salons.

They're places that show that the wider society cares about them, and wants them to be well and to succeed.

Further, through these findings researchers have clear proof that public goods like transit really do help our young people thrive. Public funding for these services has a tangible public benefit, fostering healthier and more stable communities full of healthier and more stable youth.

Families put tremendous effort and thought into where they choose to live, usually in search of excellent schools, safe neighborhoods and quality housing. But often the neighborhoods that fulfill those criteria don't allow for significant mobility for young people, since they're based mostly or entirely

*See HOW on Page 7*




# Tulsi Gabbard as intelligence czar? The Trump Cabinet pick most likely to fail

**By DOYLE MCMANUS**
Los Angeles Times

*Doyle McManus is a columnist for the* Los Angeles Times.

WASHINGTON—Tulsi Gabbard, President-elect Donald Trump's nominee to oversee the nation's 18 intelligence agencies, is a woman of strong views, vigorously expressed.

A former Bernie Sanders Democrat, she now says the Democratic Party is controlled by "an elitist cabal of warmongers" that includes "rogue intelligence and law enforcement agents." President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, she wrote recently, are merely puppets of that cabal.

A staunch anti-interventionist who opposes almost any use of U.S. military force, the former congresswoman from Hawaii blames Biden—not Vladimir Putin—for Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

All of which echoes Trump's views, especially his conviction that the FBI, CIA and other national security agencies have plotted ceaselessly against him.

On the other hand, during Trump's first term in the White House, she also complained that he was too tough on Iran and denounced him for acting like "Saudi Arabia's bitch."

This year, though, she rallied to his side and endorsed him for promising to seek a thaw with Russia. She was a frequent, telegenic surrogate for his campaign on Fox News. No wonder Trump decided she was the perfect choice to guard the nation's secrets as director of national intelligence.

National security veterans from both parties are not only unimpressed; they're alarmed.

"We normally look for demonstrated competence in a nominee," said Gregory F. Treverton, a former top intelligence official during the Obama administration who now teaches at USC. "This is a case of demonstrated incompetence. … She was obviously selected solely because she's loyal to Trump."

"I think she's a serious threat to our national security," John Bolton, who served as Trump's national security advisor during his first term, said in a television interview. "Her judgment is nonexistent."

Among Republicans in the Senate, Gabbard's nomination elicited a few glowing endorsements—but an impressive list of noncommittal statements.

"That's a nominee that illustrates the importance of a full background check," said Susan Collins of Maine, one of the GOP senators who helped sink the nomination of former Rep. Matt Gaetz for attorney general last month.

Sen. James Lankford of Oklahoma said he "will have a lot of questions." "It's really important that we have leadership there that's able to support" the intelligence agencies, he added.

Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, formerly the GOP's second-ranking Senate leader, gave a speech praising most of Trump's national security nominees by name—but left Gabbard conspicuously off the list. A Cornyn aide declined to say whether the omission was deliberate.

To Senate-watchers, the meaning of all that terseness was clear: If any of Trump's nominees are in danger, Gabbard is at the top of the list.

Her long record as a foreign policy dissident under both Democratic and Republican presidents will give Senate hawks plenty to scrutinize—and, perhaps, to excoriate.

She not only blamed Biden for Russia's war on Ukraine (she claims he failed to acknowledge Putin's "legitimate security concerns" and demanded the United States cut off military aid to Kyiv. She also charged that the U.S. was funding dangerous biological laboratories in Ukraine—"parroting fake Russian propaganda," Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah complained.

On the Syrian civil war, Gabbard opposed U.S. aid to the rebels fighting the brutal regime of Bashar Assad, met with the authoritarian leader and defended him against the allegations that he used chemical weapons on his own people. Assad, who is propped up by military aid from Iran and Russia, "is not the enemy of the United States," she said.

She defended Edward Snowden and Julian Assange, who were indicted for masterminding two of the biggest leaks of intelligence secrets in U.S. history—a position unlikely to endear her to intelligence community professionals or hawks in the Senate.

Gabbard also criticized Trump during his first term for military intervention, including for bombing Syrian government forces in 2017 in retaliation for Assad's use of chemical weapons against civilians.

She condemned Trump for ordering the assassination of Iran's Gen. Qassem Soleimani in 2020, and for imposing harsh economic sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program. She also excoriated Trump for supporting Saudi Arabia's authoritarian regime

*See TULSI on Page 7*

**EDITORIAL POLICY** Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Ambrose and the passed-over list! Opportunities lost and 33 lessons learned

**By AMBROSE M. BENNETT**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Ambrose M. Bennett is an economist who minored in sociology, political scientist, a retired teacher, and former CNMI Board of Education member, a James Madison Fellow (U.S. constitutional scholar), a Fulbright-Hays and lifetime humanities scholar who resides in Kagman III in the CNMI.*

The truth of the matter is I was compelled to become an activist to try and help the people of the CNMI, as it is an immense undertaking to try and change the minds and hearts of the people, which only happens one person at a time. But no one can say Ambrose lied nor Ambrose is the enemy as I have only offered what and who I thought was best for the CNMI that has always been intended to be constructive criticism. But the GOP's ugly revenge politics has been the biggest obstacle to helping the people. Readers should note the numerous following things of merit and progress I've offered for years only to be ignored by our leaders—progress ignored. The people and the CNMI have missed- ut on a lot of things that would have made the CNMI and life much better off, as you will see from the list below. But our leaders want you to think-ill of me when people should have bucketloads of resentment for our leaders who chose bigotry over real progress. I'm sure no one can say all of the 33 things listed below were no-good or bad for the CNMI, but I'm sure a lot of regret over what our leaders failed to do! I'm sure Christians know the wisdom of 33 and Passover (redemption), so see the 33 passed-over list below!

1. My activism started by trying to help our teachers exercise their federal collective bargaining rights, only to be opposed by a group of white teachers from the mainland whose candidate lost to me, a few locals and BOE members so I chose not to run for a second term. Our teachers are still today the only teachers in America who can be terminated "without cause." One-day teachers will wake-up and be protected like our firefighters.

2. My warnings five years in advance in 2000, 'the garment industry was leaving," they did nothing to prepare and were even surprised when they left like a thief in the night on Dec. 31 of 2005—the WTO ended and taya!

3. My many op-eds on the Sugar Dock ferry opportunity, we see what hasn't happen after GOP promises.

4. My many op-eds on the GOP robbing the Retirement Fund and even their desire to kill it—now look!

5. I pleaded for then governor to sell our pozzolan to the Chinese for their Olympic Village—now look at taya!

6. My op-eds to stop the closing of La Fiesta, which was a political revenge, but we suffered—now look!

7. My success in helping then Bishop Camacho to stop the casino and now we can see why the bishop wanted it stopped; however, the GOP hated me for stopping the casino attacking me but look at RICO and our economy! The GOP realized that Ambrose was getting to be too powerful, thus the endless attacks on me until today.

8. I conducted the only modern research in Mexico determining the origins of many things in the CNMI and I can only hope that one day these origins will be taught in our schools to preserve and promote.

9. My warnings on the Saipan casino would kill Tinian's economy—not even Tinian'ssSenators listened.

10. I yelled and screamed for years about our community chest and now we are getting nothing!

11. Tried to get the governor to stop the GOP Casino Commission's mess with IPI, only Rep. Flores tried.

12. My efforts to try and get rid of the Casino Commission and create a Gaming Commission for all gambling to avoiding the need for commissions on each island"—the CC is BS, who couldn't collect their own salaries.

13. Tried to stop the Chinese takeover of the "tourism guide jobs," these jobs should be for locals only by law.

14. Tried to and pleaded for the reinstitution of the "Chief and Warriors System" in villages with summers being warrior training time and to update the local languages that are becoming more and more dysfunctional.

15. Created the first and only elementary social studies textbook based on the Marianas using some of the research I did in Mexico that determined the origin of "language, names, customs and practices, plants and trees and other things. But these educational tools are not in use today in preserving and promoting the local culture.

16. Offered a viable plan in 2013, for the CNMI to establish a permanent footprint in Guam for our Medical Referral program, yet we are still paying enough in hotel rentals to have owned our own hotel/villa—no planning.

17. Every candidate for governor I've supported lost but look at our economy and life for the past 20 years—heller!

18. CWs didn't listen to my warnings to be careful what they ask for from the feds, as the results was a federal mandate for all CWs to leave by 2029—a lesson from our immigration takeover that CWs didn't learn.

19. Tried endlessly to stop the "giveaway of the Marianas Resort our last Japanese hotel" and warned they were killing our Japanese tourist market—now look, no hotel and no Japanese tourists, when is it enough!

20. Wrote a lot on how MPLT is not providing any programs nor subsidies to help locals—duh!

21. Warned too many times on how our leaders were failing to help and take advantage of the effort to create a freely funded Amelia Earhart Monument to help tourism but "Tourism is NOT their business"—for true!

22. Fought for years to establish equality in the CNMI that would do wonders for our housing market, but the ugly politics led by the GOP is against any change, especially when its led by an outsider.

23. My push to get Article XII updated to use DNA like native American, the present method is obsolete.

24. Pushed for Luta to be "The Gateway to the CNMI"—stop the waste in shipping pass Luta raising cost.

25. Proposed a law to allow the chief justice to simply hire an outside judge every two years—end recusals.

26. The free lot—# addresses I proposed—instead my idea was plagiarized, and we paid over a million!

27. Pushed for a camera system in Garapan and tourist sites, yet we saw Ralph waste and giveaway tens of millions of dollars.

28. My warnings for years how CEDA was not doing its job in leading our economic reforms, still taya!

29. For over 14 years I've pushed to change the dying World War II tourism model to family model, not gambling!

30. My push for IPI stock and to transform IPI's property into a convention center/hotel but now look.

31. I created what was supposed to be our cannabis tourism industry in the first draft, but they trashed too much ignoring the tourism aspect because they don't know how, thus we are still paying more than we bring in!

32. Pushed for over a decade to have a real economist on Capitol Hill to stop the picknick table economics of the governor and lieutenant governor, now we got CEDA's taya. It was not so much about me getting a job but about me helping!

33. I offered the only systemic workforce transition plan, as five years have passed on the 2029, mandate and the present workforce plan of the governor does not address the federal mandate, so taya on a complete plan!

I didn't even mention the failed Tinian slaughterhouse I wrote about and many other things, but just think how much better off the CNMI would be from the things I've promoted over the past three decades. Reality needs to sink in "w as a people have been missing out and that Ambrose was right about a lot of things our leaders ignored. But my ugly bigot critics, especially those in office, prefer trashing me about 50 years ago ignoring what is right and best for the people—pathetic and prayers as they're obviously not members of the church. They prefer the bigotry of people thinking Ambrose is a troublemaker, outsider, and criminal but this pass-over list proves different, but the GOP's defamation worked on too many who need to attend Mass and confess! These 33 opportunities that fell on the deaf ears of our leaders tell a completely different story of an activist who cares about the people putting my heart and soul into helping the people of the CNMI for free! It's really about the people and the CNMI, not me—heller!

FYI critics, just as priest and pastors are called, so are real activist like me as your frivolous attacks are worthless upstairs! My coward critics cry and yell using twisted facts and ugly lies in the comment section—pathetic adults acting like kids, when We are facing some of the most serious times in the history of the CNMI! In fact, I've tried to help and improve the CNMI educationally, culturally, socially, economically and politically more than some and more than most of our leaders. But instead of addressing the issues on their merits, our leaders were quiet as church mice—unnecessary and distressing losses! I've only seen former governors Pedro Tenorio and Juan N. Babauta, senator Hocog, Rep. Propst, and recently Rep. Flores who tried to take real action. A highly respected and famous CNMI attorney once said to me "Ambrose, you are the best unelected leader we ever had" and I'm sure many agree. However, the question is when will our leaders stop the bigotry and start addressing the ideas of anyone on their merit, as its ugly, not right and the people deserve betyer because they are the ones who end up losing out! How much suffering and missed opportunities will it take for the people and our leaders to say enough of the bigotry and ignoring potential ideas for progress, as doing right is about the message, not the messenger.

## HOW

*From page 6*

on transportation by car. The JAMA study shows that the way we've designed some of our most desirable communities has actually made them less hospitable for youth, who thrive best when they can find each other, and access services, on their own and right in their own neighborhoods.

This is even more important in a post-pandemic world, in which many of these young people were deprived of formative opportunities to engage with others.

Human beings are social creatures, and being part of a genuine community is essential to our thriving. But how we design and build the places where we live can make forming that community, especially for young people, either easier or more difficult.

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## TULSI

*From page 6*

in exchange for military purchases—the reason she called him "Saudi Arabia's bitch."

Trump does not appear to have held any of that against her—especially after she began campaigning for him. And, of course, he shares Gabbard's view of the CIA as a rogue agency that needs to be brought to heel.

That's the core of the problem with her nomination, Treverton argues.

"She's going to be at war with the intelligence community," he said. "She'll politicize it in ways that are obvious and not obvious."

Intelligence, he added, is an area in which political loyalty is not always a cardinal virtue.

"If the president surrounds himself with yes-men and yes-women, that's dangerous," he said. "You need to encourage intelligence officers to come forward with bad news, instead of telling leaders only what they want to hear."

Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the former Senate leader, has said he plans to use his remaining time in the Senate to oppose the rising isolationism in his party.

He has criticized Trump's foreign policy slogan, "America First," as similar to "the language they used in the '20s and '30s." He has said pushing back against Putin and his allies, especially in Ukraine, must be a top priority—no matter what Trump and Gabbard think.

There are at least a dozen national security Republicans in the Senate—"Reagan Republicans," in McConnell's words—who share that view. With the GOP holding a 53-47 majority, it would take only four to sink a nomination.

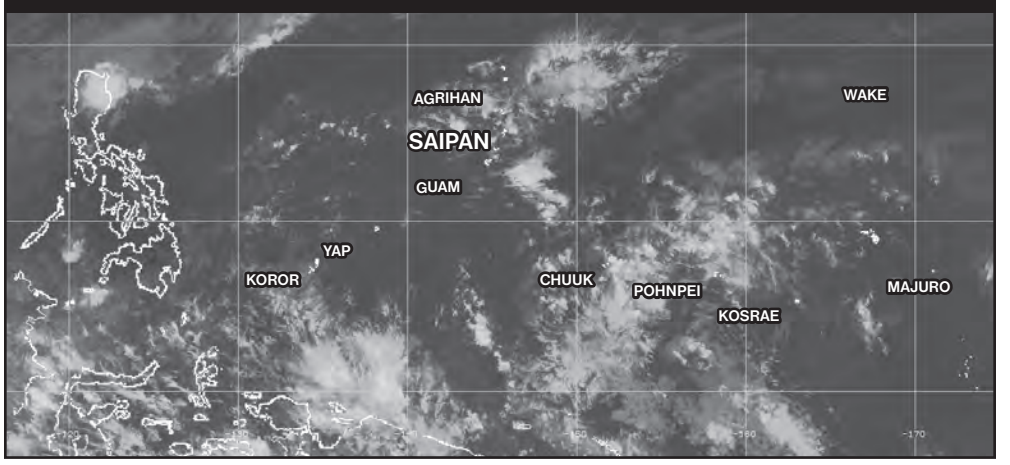
Will McConnell and other Russia hawks have the courage of their convictions? This nomination would be a good place to start.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of showers 20 percent. | Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Mostly cloudy. A 50 percent chance of showers. | Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers, increasing to 20 percent. | Partly sunny with a 40 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. |
| 86º 77º | 86º 78º | 86º 77º | 87º 77º | 87º 77º |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 4:43 AM WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Little was changed in the forecast package overnight. Scattered moderate to heavy showers continue across the Marianas as a surface trough lifts slowly across the region, bringing plenty of moisture with it. CIMSS MIMIC Precipitable Water values exceed 2.75 inches across much of the area. Scattered showers will continue across the region today, decreasing tonight and Thursday as the surface trough gradually moves west of the islands. The lull in showers will be short-lived, as the next surface trough moves into the area by Friday. The risk of rip currents has diminished to moderate for east facing reefs for now due to a weakened trade swell, but may return this weekend as the next trade-wind surge begins to build east of the Marianas. Local buoy data and nearby altimetry data show combined seas of around 6 to 8 feet, which may come down by around a foot toward the end of the week, increasing once again this weekend as the elevated trade swell returns.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/*

| MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F | | |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Mostly Cloudy | 86° / 79° |
| Palau | Mostly Cloudy | 83° / 77° |
| Yap | Partly Cloudy | 85° / 79° |
| Chuuk | Partly Cloudy | 86° / 81° |
| Pohnpei | Mostly Cloudy | 86° / 79° |
| Kosrae | Partly Cloudy | 86° / 79° |
| Majuro | Partly Cloudy | 85° / 81° |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:29 AM | 5:45 PM |
| Friday | 6:30 AM | 5:45 PM |
| Saturday | 6:30 AM | 5:46 PM |
| Sunday | 6:31 AM | 5:46 PM |
| Monday | 6:31 AM | 5:46 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | 9:52 AM | 9:19 PM | - |
| Friday | 10:40 AM | 10:17 PM | - |
| Saturday | 11:24 AM | 11:14 PM | - |
| Sunday | 12:06 PM | - | - |
| Monday | - | 12:09 AM | 12:45 PM |

| AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F | | |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Partly Cloudy | 75° / 63° |
| Beijing | Sunny | 39° / 19° |
| Hong Kong | Sunny | 66° / 52° |
| Honolulu | Showers | 81° / 70° |
| London | Cloudy | 46° / 37° |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 73° / 50° |
| Manila | Rain | 84° / 75° |
| Melbourne | Showers | 86° / 63° |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | 80° / 71° |
| New York | Showers | 47° / 38° |
| Osaka | Partly Cloudy | 52° / 36° |
| Paris | Showers | 48° / 39° |
| Busan | Mostly Sunny | 46° / 34° |
| Rome | Mostly Sunny | 52° / 32° |
| Salem | Showers | 65° / 48° |
| San Francisco | Sunny | 62° / 45° |
| Seoul | Sunny | 28° / 14° |
| Tokyo | Sunny | 55° / 36° |
| Washington, DC | Partly Cloudy | 57° / 39° |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | FEET | |
|---|---|---|
| 4:01 AM | Low Tide | -0.54 |
| 11:38 AM | High Tide | 1.69 |
| 4:52 PM | Low Tide | 1.27 |
| 8:58 PM | High Tide | 1.58 |

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2024

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA076 | 9:50AM | 10:35AM | Daily |

**SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA824 | 1:20PM | 4:00PM | 1, 3, 5 |

**GUAM-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| PR 111 | 5:55AM | 7:55AM | Daily |
| UA183 | 7:55PM | 9:50PM | Daily |
| UA193 | 7:55PM | 11:50PM | 2, 5 via Palau |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3218/2305 | 2:45AM | 10:20PM | Daily via Incheon |
| UA076/183 Guam | 9:50AM | 9:50PM | Daily via |
| UA076/193 | 9:50AM | 11:50PM | 2, 5 via Guam, Palau |

**SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| TW308 | 2:30AM | 6:25AM | Daily |
| 7C3218 | 2:45AM | 6:45AM | Daily from Dec 8 |
| 7C3212 | 4:35PM | 8:25PM | Daily |

**SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3552 | 3:55AM | 7:20AM | 3, 6 from Dec 25 |

**SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| HX77 | 3:05AM | 5:55AM | 1, 5 |

### ARRIVALS

**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA174 | 8:00AM | 8:45AM | Daily |

**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA825 | 5:30PM | 10:05PM | 2, 4, 7 |

**MANILA (MNL)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA156 | 00:40AM | 6:25AM | 3, 6 |
| PR110 | 10:05PM | 3:55AM+1 | Daily |
| UA192 | 10:40PM | 6:30AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau |
| UA184 | 10:55PM | 4:40AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA156 | 00:40AM | 8:45AM | 3, 6 via Guam |
| UA192/174 | 10:40PM | 8:45AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau, Guam |
| UA184/174 | 10:55PM | 8:45AM +1 | 1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam |
| 7C2306/3407 | 11:20PM | 3:30PM+1 | Daily |

**INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3211 | 10:10AM | 3:30PM | Daily |
| TW307 | 8:00PM | 1:30AM+1 | Daily |
| 7C3217 | 8:10PM | 1:40AM+1 | Daily from Dec 8 |

**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3551 | 9:25PM | 2:50AM+1 | 2, 5 from Dec 25 |

**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| HX76 | 6:25PM | 1:35AM+1 | 4, 7 |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

**SAIPAN TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1301 | SAIPAN | ROTA | 08:30 | 09:00 | Daily |
| 1302 | SAIPAN | ROTA | 10:30 | 11:00 | Daily |
| 1303 | SAIPAN | ROTA | 15:30 | 16:00 | Daily |

**ROTA TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3101 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily |
| 3102 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 11:30 | 12:00 | Saturday & Sunday |
| 3103 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 13:30 | 14:00 | Monday To Friday |
| 3104 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 16:30 | 17:00 | Daily |

**ROTA TO GUAM**

| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3401 | ROTA | GUAM | 11:30 | 12:00 | Monday To Friday |

**GUAM TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4301 | GUAM | ROTA | 12:30 | 13:00 | Monday To Friday |

**SAIPAN TO TINIAN**

| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1201 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 7:30 | 7:45 | Daily |
| 1202 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily |
| 1203 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily |
| 1204 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 10:00 | 10:15 | Daily |
| 1206 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 14:00 | 14:15 | Daily |
| 1207 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily |
| 1208 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily |
| 1209 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 17:00 | 17:15 | Daily |

**TINIAN TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2101 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily |
| 2102 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily |
| 2103 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily |
| 2104 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 10:30 | 10:45 | Daily |
| 2106 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 14:30 | 14:45 | Daily |
| 2107 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily |
| 2108 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily |
| 2109 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 17:30 | 17:45 | Daily |

# Business

## Celebrate the holidays at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan

The holiday season is upon us, and Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan invites you to celebrate with a variety of festive dining experiences and exciting events. From holiday-inspired meals at The Terrace to Saipan's ultimate New Year's Eve Countdown Party, we have curated the perfect way to make this holiday season truly special for you and your loved ones to enjoy.

CPRS

Celebrate the holiday season at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan and make this year's festivities truly remarkable.

**Festive Dining at The Terrace**

Join us at The Terrace for buffet-style holiday dining that's perfect for creating cherished moments with loved ones.

**Christmas Eve Dinner**

Date: Dec. 24, 5:30pm-9:30pm

Price: $75 per adult, $25 per child

Early bird discount: 20% off for bookings made by Dec. 20

**Christmas Day Brunch**

Date: Dec. 25, 11am-2pm

Price: $75 per adult, $25 per child

Early bird discount: 20% off for bookings made by Dec. 15

Special holiday highlight during Christmas Eve Dinner and Christmas Brunch: Santa Claus will be at The Terrace spreading cheer and giving out candies!

**New Year's Eve Dinner**

Date: Dec. 31, 5:30pm-9:30pm

Price: $75 per adult, $25 per child

Early bird discount: 15% off for bookings made by Dec. 22

**New Year's Day Brunch**

Date: Jan. 1, 11am- 2pm

Price: $75 per adult, $25 per child

Early bird discount: 15% off for bookings made by Dec. 22

**2025 New Year's Eve Countdown Party**

Ring in the New Year with the island's most anticipated celebration!

Date: Dec.31

Time: 9pm- 1pm

Location: Crowne Plaza Garden and Beachside

Free entry for all!

**Highlights include:**

■ Live entertainment: Featuring Brad Ruszala as emcee and High Tide Band live entertainment

■ Fireworks at midnight

■ Fire dance performances

■ Food and drinks: Three bars with exclusive specials

■ Raffle rrizes to be won and party favors for all guests

This is the ultimate way to welcome 2025 with family, friends, and unforgettable energy.

Don't forget our exclusive New Years Eve offers at our restaurants and bars:

■ Mari Bar: Reserve a table for four or more for just $10 to secure your celebration spot. Enjoy $25 food and drink packages and exclusive one-liter beer specials.

■ Ataari Dinner Show: Savor a special grilling station, whole roast pig, $10 soju specials, and $20 buckets of beer.

■ Market Place: Open until midnight with $10 specialty boxes designed to delight your taste buds.

**Special December promotions**

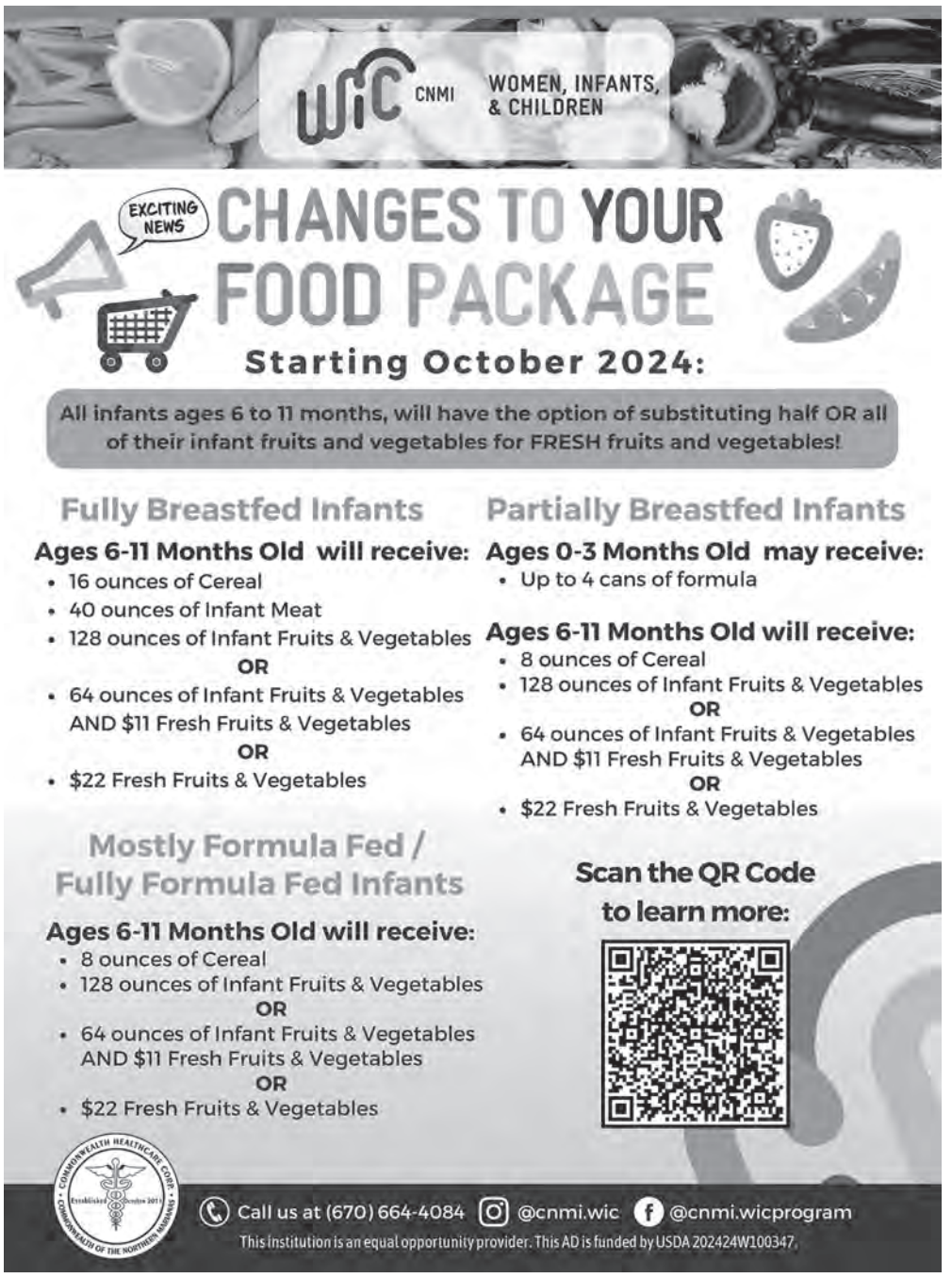
■ Market Place: Throughout December, enjoy Panettone Cakes for $3 (small) or $18 (large) and treat yourself to Sago Ube Milk Tea for $7.

■ Mai Teppanyaki: Experience a luxurious six-course holiday menu for $95 per person. Enhance your meal with expert sake pairing for an additional $15 or wine for an additional $30. Reservations are required 24 hours in advance for a minimum of six guests.

Celebrate the holiday season at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan and make this year's festivities truly remarkable. For reservations and additional information, contact (670) 234-6412 or visit https://saipan.crowneplaza.com/.

For the latest updates, follow us on social media! Facebook/Instagram: @crowneplazaresortsaipan and @theterraceclubsaipan.

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is a 422-room hotel located in Garapan. Guests will be greeted by the resort's lush tropical gardens and panoramic view of Micro Beach, with Crowne Plaza's warm and friendly hospitality ensuring a seamless arrival. ***(PR)***



WIC CNMI WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN
EXCITING NEWS
CHANGES TO YOUR FOOD PACKAGE
Starting October 2024:
All infants ages 6 to 11 months, will have the option of substituting half OR all of their infant fruits and vegetables for FRESH fruits and vegetables!
Fully Breastfed Infants
Ages 6-11 Months Old will receive:
• 16 ounces of Cereal
• 40 ounces of Infant Meat
• 128 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• 64 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables AND $11 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• $22 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
Partially Breastfed Infants
Ages 0-3 Months Old may receive:
• Up to 4 cans of formula
Ages 6-11 Months Old will receive:
• 8 ounces of Cereal
• 128 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• 64 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables AND $11 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• $22 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
Mostly Formula Fed / Fully Formula Fed Infants
Ages 6-11 Months Old will receive:
• 8 ounces of Cereal
• 128 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• 64 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables AND $11 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• $22 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
Scan the QR Code to learn more:
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**COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION**
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**
**CUC-IFB-25-002**

**KAGMAN WATER TANK REPLACEMENT AND BOOSTER PUMP STATION UPGRADE**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of the Kagman Water Tank Replacement and Booster Pump Station Upgrade in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of demolition of the existing water tank, booster pumps, yard piping, and all other appurtenances; construction of a new 70,000-gallon cast-in-place circular concrete water tank; removal of the temporary modular tank; construction of new generator building; installation of new generator equipment, flow meter stations, triplex pitless booster pump system, telemetry and controls; reconnection of existing waterlines; electrical works; site improvements; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the project plans and specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

*This project is funded by a grant from the US Public Law 117-2 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.*

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **four hundred twenty (420) calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **December 5, 2024 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-25-002, Kagman Water Tank Replacement and Booster Pump Station Upgrade**", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on December 27, 2024**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 12, 2024** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Alley Reyes, Engineer, Water & Wastewater – via email at alley.reyes@cucgov-.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Technichian Senior – via email at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

# Nation

## Trump's lawyers urge judge to toss his hush money conviction

**NEW YORK** (AP)—President-elect Donald Trump's lawyers formally asked a judge Monday to throw out his hush money criminal conviction, arguing that continuing the case would present unconstitutional "disruptions to the institution of the Presidency."

In a filing made public Tuesday, Trump's lawyers told Manhattan Judge Juan M. Merchan that anything short of immediate dismissal would undermine the transition of power, as well as the "overwhelming national mandate" granted to Trump by voters last month.

They also cited President Joe Biden's recent pardon of his son, Hunter Biden, who had been convicted of tax and gun charges.

"President Biden asserted that his son was 'selectively, and unfairly, prosecuted,' and 'treated differently,'" Trump's legal team wrote. Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, they claimed, had engaged in the type of political theater "that President Biden condemned."

Prosecutors will have until Dec. 9 to respond. They have said they will fight any efforts to dismiss the case but have indicated a willingness to delay the sentencing until after Trump's second term ends in 2029. In their filing Monday, Trump's attorneys dismissed the idea of holding off sentencing until Trump is out of office as a "ridiculous suggestion."

Following Trump's election victory last month, Merchan halted proceedings and indefinitely postponed his sentencing, previously scheduled for late November, to allow the defense and prosecution to weigh in on the future of the case. He also delayed a decision on Trump's prior bid to dismiss the case on immunity grounds.

Trump has been fighting for months to reverse his conviction on 34 counts of falsifying business records to conceal a $130,000 payment to porn actor Stormy Daniels to suppress her claim that they had sex a decade earlier. He says they did not and denies any wrongdoing.

The defense filing was signed by Trump lawyers Todd Blanche and Emil Bove, who represented Trump during the trial and have since been selected by the president-elect to fill senior roles at the Justice Department.

Taking a swipe at Bragg and New York City, as Trump often did throughout the trial, the filing argues that dismissal would also benefit the public by giving him and "the numerous prosecutors assigned to this case a renewed opportunity to put an end to deteriorating conditions in the City and to protect its residents from violent crime."

Clearing Trump, the lawyers added, would also allow him to "to devote all of his energy to protecting the Nation."

Merchan hasn't yet set a timetable for a decision. He could decide to uphold the verdict and proceed to sentencing, delay the case until Trump leaves office, wait until a federal appeals court rules on Trump's parallel effort to get the case moved out of state court or choose some other option.

An outright dismissal of the New York case would further lift a legal cloud that at one point carried the prospect of derailing Trump's political future.

Last week, special counsel Jack Smith told courts that he was withdrawing both federal cases against Trump—one charging him with hoarding classified documents at his Florida estate, the other with scheming to overturn the 2020 presidential election he lost—citing longstanding Justice Department policy that shields a president from indictment while in office.

## Democrats stick with Chuck Schumer as leader

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Senate Democrats reelected Chuck Schumer as party leader on Tuesday as the party moves into a deeply uncertain time, with no real consensus on a strategy as President-elect Donald Trump prepares to take office.

Schumer faced no opposition in the party leadership elections, in which Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin was also reelected to the No. 2 spot and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar became the new No. 3. In a statement, Schumer, of New York, said he was honored to move the party forward "during this crucial period for our country."

"Our preference is to secure bipartisan solutions wherever possible and look for ways to collaborate with our Republican colleagues to help working families," Schumer said. "However, our Republican colleagues should make no mistake about it, we will always stand up for our values."

While Schumer remains popular with his colleagues, it is a bleak moment for Senate Democrats, who had been hopeful that they could hold the majority for the third election in a row. Instead they lost four seats and will be in the minority, 53-47, as Trump takes office and pressures the Senate to quickly confirm his Cabinet nominees.

Unlike eight years ago, when opposition to Trump's narrow election win fueled enthusiasm in their party, Democratic lawmakers and many of their voters are exhausted and looking for answers.

So far, Democrats have stayed relatively quiet on Trump's nominees and plans for office – a stark contrast from the loud opposition to Trump when he was elected eight years ago. Schumer has declined to comment on specifics of any nominees, instead allowing Republican reaction to dominate the conversation.

On Monday, Schumer wrote a public letter to South Dakota Sen. John Thune, the incoming Republican majority leader, asking him to resist Trump's pressure to allow him to appoint some of his nominees without a Senate vote and to insist on full FBI background checks for all nominees. But he has said little else about Trump's upcoming presidency.

While some have been more aggressive—Washington Sen. Patty Murray, a former chairwoman of the Senate Health, Labor, Education and Pensions Committee, said that Trump's nomination of Robert Kennedy Jr. to lead the Health and Human Services Department is "dangerous" and "nothing short of disaster"—several Democratic senators say they are saving their strength and figuring out a focus.

"Everybody's in kind of in a wait-and-see mode right now," said Nevada Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, who is part of Schumer's leadership team. "Under the previous Trump administration, there was chaos all the time, all the time. And I do think it is important to pick your battles."

It's still unclear which battles they will pick. And Democrats have differing opinions on how to fight them.

# World

### OVER MARTIAL LAW DECLARATION

## S. Korean leader urged to resign or face impeachment

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—South Korea's main opposition party on Wednesday urged President Yoon Suk Yeol to resign immediately or face impeachment, hours after Yoon ended short-lived martial law that prompted troops to encircle parliament before lawmakers voted to lift it.

AP

National Assembly employees spray a fire extinguisher towards soldiers at the National Assembly in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024.

Yoon has publicly responded to the opposition's demand. But his office said senior presidential advisers and secretaries for Yoon offered to resign collectively and the president also put off his official Wednesday morning schedule.

In the capital, tourists and residents walked around, traffic and construction were heard, and other than crowds of police holding shields, it seemed like a normal sunny, cold December morning.

On Tuesday night, Yoon abruptly imposed the emergency martial law, vowing to eliminate "anti-state" forces after he struggled to push forward his agenda in the opposition-dominated parliament. But his martial law was effective for only about six hours, as the National Assembly voted to overrule the president. The declaration was formally lifted around 4:30 a.m. during a Cabinet meeting.

The liberal opposition Democratic Party, which holds a majority in the 300-seat parliament, said Wednesday that its lawmakers decided to call on Yoon to quit immediately or they would take steps to impeach him.

"President Yoon Suk Yeol's martial law declaration was a clear violation of the constitution. It didn't abide by any requirements to declare it," the Democratic Party said in a statement. "His martial law declaration was originally invalid and a grave violation of the constitution. It was a grave act of rebellion and provides perfect grounds for his impeachment."

Impeaching him would require support from two-thirds of the parliament, or 200 of its 300 members. The Democratic Party and other small opposition parties together have 192 seats. But when the parliament rejected Yoon's martial law declaration in a 190-0 vote, 18 lawmakers from Yoon's ruling People Power Party cast ballots supporting the rejection, according to National Assembly officials. The leader of the People Power Party, Han Dong-hun, who has long ties with Yoon dating to their days as prosecutors, criticized Yoon's martial law declaration as "unconstitutional." If Yoon is impeached, he'll be stripped of his constitutional powers until the Constitutional Court can rule on his fate. Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, the No. 2 position in the South Korean government, would take over his presidential responsibilities.

Yoon's martial law declaration, the first of its kind in more than 40 years, harkened to South Korea's past military-backed governments when authorities occasionally proclaimed martial law and other decrees that allowed them to station combat soldiers, tanks and armored vehicles on streets or at public places like schools to prevent anti-government demonstrations. Such scenes of military intervention had not been seen since South Korea achieved a genuine democracy in the late 1980s until Tuesday night.

After Yoon's declaration, troops carrying full battle gear, including assault rifles, tried to keep protesters away from the National Assembly as military helicopters flew overhead and landed nearby. One soldier pointed his assault rifle at a woman who was among protesters outside the building demanding that the martial law be lifted.

It wasn't clear how the 190 lawmakers were able to enter a parliamentary hall to vote down Yoon's martial law decree. Opposition leader Lee Jae-myung livestreamed himself climbing over the wall, and while troops and police officers blocked some from entering they didn't aggressively restrain or use force against others.

No major violence has been reported. The troops and police personnel were later seen leaving the grounds of the National Assembly after the parliamentary vote to lift the martial law. National Assembly Speaker Woo Won Shik said: "Even with our unfortunate memories of military coups, our citizens have surely observed the events of today and saw the maturity of our military."

Han, the People Power Party leader, demanded that Yoon explain his decision and fire Defense Minister Kim Yong Hyun, who he said recommended the martial law decree to Yoon. The Defense Ministry has not commented.

Under South Korea's constitution, the president can declare martial law during "wartime, war-like situations or other comparable national emergency states" that require the use of military force to restrict the freedom of press, assembly and other rights to maintain order. Many observers question whether South Korea is currently in such a state.

The constitution also states that the president must oblige when the National Assembly demands the lifting of martial law with a majority vote.

Some experts say Yoon clearly violated the constitution in how he imposed martial law. While martial law allows "special measures" to restrict individual freedoms and the authority of agencies and courts, the constitution does not permit the functions of parliament to be restricted.

# Life & Style

## Philadelphia ready to go the distance with RockyFest week

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—Rocky Balboa fans are ready to go the distance—by bus, by ice skates, by 72 steps—to honor Philly's favorite fictional fighter almost 50 years after the first movie launched the enduring series of an underdog boxer persevering despite the odds.

Yo, Adrian, Philly finally did it!

The city Rocky called home

**» Celebration dedicated to 'Rocky' movies**

at last has a week dedicated to the box office heavyweight champion of the world a year after the inaugural Rocky Day was held with Sylvester Stallone in attendance at the Philadelphia Museum of Art steps.

It's Rocky, so of course there's a sequel.

This year, it's RockyFest.

The Rocky Bus Tour served as Round 1 over the weekend before the festival truly laced up its gloves for Tuesday's opening event—on Dec. 3, the 1976 release date of "Rocky"—with area elementary school students running the Rocky steps.

A second cast of the Rocky statue was unveiled Tuesday at the top of the Rocky steps—where the original was featured in "Rocky III"—and will remain there through Dec. 31.

AP

Visitors gather around the Rocky Statue and the "Rocky Steps" during RockyFest 2024 at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024, in Philadelphia.

"This statue represents everything that the Rocky films stand for: resilience, heart, and the unbreakable bond between Rocky and the people of Philadelphia," Stallone said in a statement.

Rocky is feted this week with a mural unveiling, movie marathons, RockyU discussions on the enduring appeal of Stallone's most famous character, look-alike contests and even a bus tour. The tour—with QR codes that pull up scenes from the movies at designated sites - weaves Rocky fanatics through the city and includes stops at Adrian and Paulie's fictional graves (not far from the real one for former Phillies announcer Harry Kalas), the Italian Market where Rocky trained, and the exterior site of Mighty Mick's Gym.

"If no one has seen the movie," tour guide Adam Clements said before a recent trip, "there will be spoilers."

Rocky fans can even recreate Rocky and Adrian's first date at a local ice rink.

It seems almost as improbable as Rocky Balboa lasting 15 rounds with champion Apollo Creed that it took so long for Philadelphia to properly honor "Rocky" and the other eight movies in the series (including three "Creed" films).

Whether natives like it or not, Rocky is as much a part of the fabric of the city as the Founding Fathers and the Liberty Bell.

Before most fans chug their first raw eggs of the day, the Rocky statue at the base of the museum steps already boasts a line that often snakes around the corner for most of the day. Movie clips are played ad nauseam—usually Adrian imploring Rocky to win—on the big screen at sporting events. The strains of "Gonna Fly Now" stir ahead of kickoff for all Eagles games. Rocky's faithful followers run a 50-kilometer race each year that follows his trumped-up training route in a grueling tribute to their mythical champ.

## Eminem's mother Debbie Nelson dies at age 69

Debbie Nelson, the single mother of rapper Eminem whose rocky relationship with her son was known widely through his hit song lyrics, has died. She was 69.

Eminem's longtime representative Dennis Dennehy confirmed Nelson's death in an email on Tuesday. He did not provide a cause of death, although Nelson had battled lung cancer.

Nelson was born in 1955 on a military base in Kansas. Her fraught relationship with her son, whose real name is Marshall Mathers III, has been no secret since the Detroit rapper became a star.

Eminem has disparaged his mother in songs such as the 2002 single "Cleaning Out My Closet." Eminem sings: "Witnessin' your mama poppin' prescription pills in the kitchen. ... My whole life I was made to believe I was sick when I wasn't."

In lyrics from his Oscar-winning hit "Lose Yourself" from the movie "8 Mile," his feelings seem to have simmered, referencing his

AP

Debbie Nelson, mother of rap star Eminem, appears in Mount Clemens, Mich., on April 10, 2001.

"mom's spaghetti." The song went on to win best rap song at the 2004 Grammy Awards.

Nelson brought and settled a pair of defamation lawsuits over Eminem's statements about her in magazines and on radio talk shows. In her 2008 book, "My Son Marshall, My Son Eminem," she attempted to set the record straight by providing readers details about the rapper's early life, writing that Eminem had forgotten the good times they had.

"Marshall and I were so close that friends and relatives commented that it was as if the umbilical cord had never been cut," she wrote.

She also detailed her own childhood, describing a violent home life in which her dad's mother, who she spent summers with, was "the one woman in my large dysfunctional family to show us kids love."

In 2004, she was dragged from her car on Eight Mile Road, the street in a Detroit suburb made famous by "8 Mile," by a 16-year-old who was later sentenced to more than four years in prison. She suffered bruises and a broken foot.

The highly acclaimed rapper Eminem won for best hip hop act at the 2024 MTV EMAs and was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2022.

He announced in October that he was going to be a grandfather, saying his daughter Hailie Jade is pregnant by way of a touching music video that is a tribute to their relationship. ***(AP)***

## Woman's miserly husband may bankrupt her affection

DEAR ABBY: My friend is married to a penny-pincher. He hates spending money. They are retired and have sizable assets. He never buys her anything for her birthday or takes her out to dinner. He doesn't buy her a card on Valentine's Day, either.

They each own their own homes and commute back and forth between them. When he comes to her house, she has her refrigerator stocked. When she goes to his, he has no food. She must go to the market and buy food for both of them. Then he gets angry in the market about spending money on food. He hates restaurants because they cost money.

Because he's so cheap, he goes to the local hospital and buys his dinner from the cafeteria there. They keep their finances separate, but she feels he should do SOMETHING for her for holidays and special occasions. She always does nice things for him, like treat him to sporting events, dinners, etc. If they go out with a group of people, he gets annoyed with splitting the bill. She's always slipping him money under the table so he can pay his and her share.

At this point, his cheapness is affecting their marriage. Abby, can you suggest anything to change a cheapskate husband? He has the resources; he just doesn't want to spend any of it.

ASKING FOR A FRIEND

**DEAR ASKING: If your friend and her husband spent a reasonable amount of time together before they married, she must have known about his "quirk." He may have a deep-seated fear of poverty. Because his penurity has become increasingly hard for her to live with, she must speak up. That their homes and financial assets have been kept separate may have been very wise. (You didn't mention whether they are happy in other aspects of their marriage.)**

**Counseling might help—if he is willing to admit there is a problem. If she's soliciting advice from you, suggest she become less generous and eat well before she arrives at his home. If his cupboard is bare, he, not she, should go to the store to fill it or even treat himself to dinner at the hospital cafeteria. Not every spouse needs gifts but, because she does and he chooses to ignore it, she may have to accept they are two very different people. While opposites can attract, in this case, apparently it isn't true. What a shame.**

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been a widow for three years. There's a guy I have known for the last eight years, and I have had a crush on for a couple of years. I'm not sure how to talk to him about my feelings and I don't want to ruin our friendship. How can I talk to him and not ruin our friendship?

FEELING LOST

### DEAR ABBY

**BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

**DEAR FEELING LOST: Do you socialize with this person? If you do, the next time you go out together, tell him how much you like him and how special he is to you. If he reacts positively, tell him you may have a crush on him. THEN LISTEN. I wouldn't call that being unduly forward, but if he runs for the hills, you'll know your crush is not reciprocated. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.**

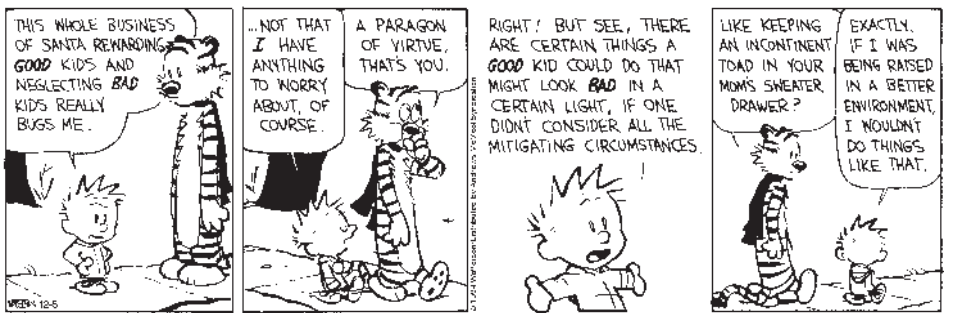
■■■

*To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

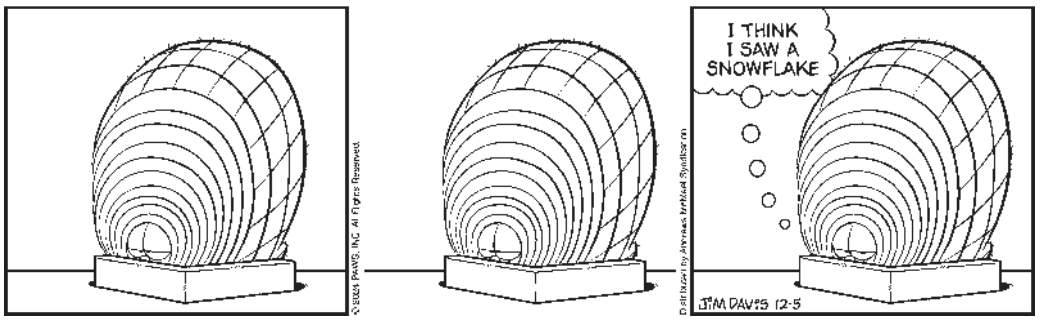
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THIS WHOLE BUSINESS OF SANTA REWARDING GOOD KIDS AND NEGLECTING BAD KIDS REALLY BUGS ME.
...NOT THAT I HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, OF COURSE.
A PARAGON OF VIRTUE, THAT'S YOU.
RIGHT! BUT SEE, THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS A GOOD KID COULD DO THAT MIGHT LOOK BAD IN A CERTAIN LIGHT, IF ONE DIDN'T CONSIDER ALL THE MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.
LIKE KEEPING AN INCONTINENT TOAD IN YOUR MOM'S SWEATER DRAWER?
EXACTLY. IF I WAS BEING RAISED IN A BETTER ENVIRONMENT, I WOULDN'T DO THINGS LIKE THAT.

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



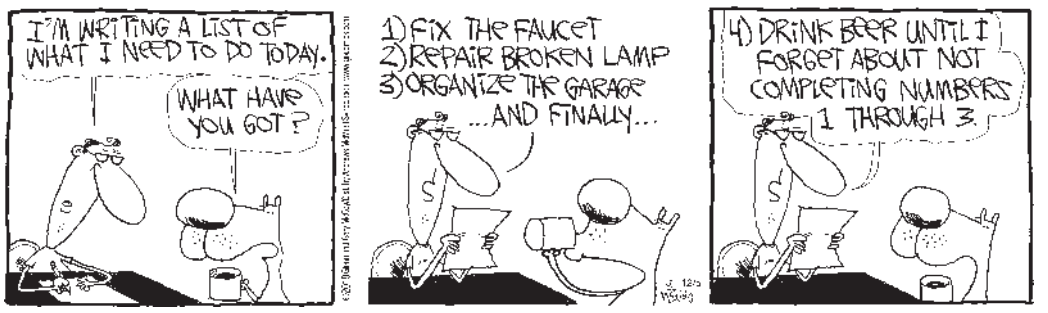

## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

THE SQUIRREL CASE CONTINUES
WHERE WERE YOU THE NIGHT OF JANUARY TENTH LAST YEAR?
I WAS PUTTING AWAY DECORATIONS LIKE THE REST OF US.
A LIKELY STORY!
NO, I ACTUALLY MEAN IT. I REMEMBER YOU BEING THERE.
YOU'RE RUTHLESS BUT FAIR.

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I'M WRITING A LIST OF WHAT I NEED TO DO TODAY.
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT?
1) FIX THE FAUCET
2) REPAIR BROKEN LAMP
3) ORGANIZE THE GARAGE
...AND FINALLY...
4) DRINK BEER UNTIL I FORGET ABOUT NOT COMPLETING NUMBERS 1 THROUGH 3.

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**
1 Sound of relief
4 Latvia's capital
8 Boot camp VIPs
12 — -cone
13 Lawyer Clooney
14 Mideast airline
15 Cling
17 "A Doll's House" heroine
18 "— good deed"
19 Shoulder-length do
21 Tea biscuits
24 Floor cover
25 Coffee vessel
26 Actress Taylor
28 Vaults
32 Post-WWII alliance
34 Spill catcher
36 Corporate symbol
37 Portly
39 Cushion
41 Rowing need
42 Corp. symbols
44 Nuanced
46 More interesting, as gossip
50 "Unh-unh"
51 Taj Mahal city
52 Keep back
56 Sorts
57 "Born Free" lioness
58 Horror star Chaney
59 Roster
60 500 sheets
61 "Houdini" singer Lipa

**DOWN**
1 Bat wood
2 Year in Spain
3 Grasp
4 Tennis star Nadal
5 "— Believer"
6 React in horror
7 Wedding setting
8 Mali neighbor
9 Dollop
10 Poi base
11 Do in
16 Mafia boss
20 Gloomy guy
21 Phoenix cagers
22 Suffix with "techno"
23 Bro, maybe
27 Energy
29 Sturdy place to stand
30 Alike (Fr.)
31 Achy
33 Pariah
35 Some coll. degrees
38 Texter's "Enough!"
40 "Girls" star Lena
43 Waste conduit
45 "Humbug!"
46 Hoosegow
47 Wrinkly fruit
48 Annoys
49 Anger
53 Airport org.
54 Brock of baseball
55 "CSI" evidence

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | A | B | ■ | I | H | A | I | ■ | P | L | O | Y |
| I | H | E | ■ | V | I | N | O | ■ | L | O | P | E |
| L | E | A | ■ | S | E | A | T | B | E | L | T | S |
| T | A | R | T | T | ■ | ■ | S | I | A | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | L | A | R | A | ■ | C | S | P | A | N |
| S | E | A | C | R | E | S | T | ■ | E | R | M | A |
| E | L | M | ■ | S | O | P | H | S | ■ | O | O | P |
| T | I | E | R | ■ | S | E | A | H | A | W | K | S |
| S | A | X | E | S | ■ | R | I | I | S | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | U | R | I | ■ | ■ | N | I | N | E | R |
| S | E | A | S | O | N | I | N | G | ■ | E | S | E |
| A | X | L | E | ■ | T | O | O | L | ■ | A | A | S |
| G | O | A | D | ■ | L | U | T | E | ■ | P | I | T |

Yesterday's answer 12-5

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | ■ | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | ■ | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | | | ■ | 13 | | | | | 14 | | | |
| 15 | | | 16 | | | | | ■ | 17 | | | |
| ■ | ■ | 18 | | | ■ | 19 | | 20 | | | | |
| 21 | 22 | | | | 23 | ■ | 24 | | | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| 25 | | | ■ | 26 | | 27 | ■ | 28 | | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| 32 | | | 33 | ■ | 34 | | 35 | ■ | 36 | | | |
| 37 | | | | 38 | ■ | 39 | | 40 | ■ | 41 | | |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | 42 | | 43 | ■ | 44 | | 45 | | | |
| 46 | 47 | 48 | | | | 49 | ■ | 50 | | | ■ | ■ |
| 51 | | | | ■ | 52 | | 53 | | | | 54 | 55 |
| 56 | | | | ■ | 57 | | | | ■ | 58 | | |
| 59 | | | | ■ | 60 | | | | ■ | 61 | | |

**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Frankie Muniz, 39; Amy Acker, 48; Margaret Cho, 56; John Rzeznik, 59.

**Happy Birthday:** Keep moving, act and seize opportunities. It's your life, and capitalizing on the choices you encounter will determine how good or bad things turn out for you this year. A passionate approach will encourage others to weigh in, giving you a boost that will catapult you to your chosen destination. Bypass the grifters, users and abusers, and station yourself among the movers and shakers who get things done. Your numbers are 4, 9, 17, 26, 35, 43, 48.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19):* Interact with someone who offers an unusual perspective regarding something of interest, and you'll discover the best way to participate. The knowledge you receive and the opportunity to use your skills accordingly will put you in a prime position. Align yourself with like-minded associates and prosper. ✪✪✪✪

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20):* Know what you want and set a course for success. Trust your instincts and micromanage the input you receive from outsiders. Changing how you present yourself and what you have to offer will make a difference in how others respond. A flirtatious gesture will be misleading and costly. Protect your assets. ✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20):* An emotional plea will help you to get your way; don't promise more than you can deliver to get what you want. Simplify matters, stick to the truth and offer a valid proposal that's easy to understand and fulfill. An updated look will help you stand out and attract progressive supporters. ✪✪✪✪✪

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22):* Listen carefully. An offer will be falsely inflated to tempt you. Be bold, ask questions, barter on your behalf and ask for what you want in writing. A savvy approach will get you what you want and where you want to go. A romantic gesture will pay off. ✪✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Network, socialize and plunge into the hustle and bustle that emanates as we approach the festive season. Reunions can be fun but are also a reminder of days gone by. Reach out to old, familiar faces and make a point to let go of what no longer resonates with you. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Clear unfinished business to make room for people and pursuits you want to embrace. Put out a welcome mat for those you haven't seen for a while, and adjust your schedule to accommodate the events and activities you want to attend. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Tidy up in preparation for what's to come. Don't hesitate to host an event or change your living arrangements to those that are conducive to your happiness. You can resolve a financial or health issue by setting a budget or changing your diet. It's the time for new beginnings. ✪✪✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* It's easy to overspend at this time of the year. Think twice before you shop or pledge your time or money to something you cannot afford. Discipline and ingenuity will help you devise a plan to bring loved ones joy at a price you can afford. ✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take the initiative and make things happen. Keep an open mind, but don't buy into someone else's dream when you have your own to bring to fruition. Get the lowdown, verify facts and take advantage of an opportunity to excel. Avoid joint ventures and paying for something you don't need. ✪✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Dress your surroundings to suit your mood and needs. The functionality and convenience you gain will offer more downtime to focus on self-improvement and pursuing what makes you happy. Refuse to let others make decisions for you. It's your life and your choices. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Do what comes naturally. Be proactive and follow through with your plans. A physical response will bring the best results. Don't hesitate to change or let go of what you don't like. Declutter and redefine how you want to live and the best way to move forward. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Sit back and observe, and you'll figure out your options. Greater involvement in a cause you believe in is worth your time and effort. You can make a difference and, in doing so, have an impact on others as well as yourself. Someone you encounter will pique your interest. ✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby:** You are spirited, resourceful and engaging. You are generous and fickle.

*✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.*

# SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | | 9 | | | | | | |
| | | | 3 | 1 | | | | |
| | | | | | 6 | 4 | 8 | 7 |
| | 1 | 7 | 4 | | | | | 6 |
| 3 | | | 6 | 2 | | 5 | | |
| | | 6 | | | 3 | | | 1 |
| | 4 | 8 | 5 | | 9 | 6 | 1 | |
| | | | 2 | 6 | | | 3 | |
| | | | | 7 | 4 | | | |

Difficulty: ★★★ 12/5

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

***Yesterday's Answer***

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| 5 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 7 |
| 1 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| 3 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 2 |
| 2 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 1 |
| 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 3 |
| 7 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 9 |
| 6 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| 8 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 4 |

Difficulty: ★★★ 12/4

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## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

**KRIS KRISTOFFERSON (1936-2024)** **Solution: 8 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | N | R | O | B | Y | L | L | I | B | O | B | B | Y | L |
| Y | J | A | F | W | O | Y | R | T | N | U | O | C | N | E |
| R | O | E | S | A | H | T | U | O | S | C | A | S | E | Y |
| I | D | K | S | H | M | Y | M | M | A | R | G | W | R | K |
| C | Y | E | E | S | V | E | M | R | T | S | M | A | E | R |
| S | A | K | D | E | E | I | E | E | T | B | I | L | N | E |
| R | N | I | A | K | R | G | L | G | I | N | L | T | E | E |
| E | A | P | L | R | N | C | Ⓓ | L | C | Y | I | U | M | B |
| Y | C | O | B | I | R | M | L | Ⓘ | E | M | T | O | Y | S |
| E | I | C | S | S | U | B | L | A | Ⓚ | E | A | G | A | E |
| M | R | S | S | S | O | N | G | S | T | A | R | R | W | C |
| A | E | I | I | A | T | J | O | H | N | N | Y | I | H | N |
| S | M | C | R | A | R | Y | G | O | L | I | R | T | G | A |
| I | A | D | E | G | D | I | L | O | O | C | A | T | I | R |
| L | U | F | L | U | O | S | C | O | W | B | O | Y | H | F |

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Americana, Billboard, Billy, Blade, Blake, Bobby, Born, Casey, Cisco Pike, Country, Cowboy, Creek, Fame, Frances Beer, Grammy, Gritty, Highwaymen, Jesse, Jody, Johnny, Kelly, Kid, Kris, Lisa Meyers, Lyrics, McGee, Military, Miss, Musical, Nashville, Outlaw, Rain, Rita Coolidge, Singer, Songs, Soulful, South, Star, Tour, Tracy, Trilogy, Why Me

**Yesterday's Answer: Aggressive**

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367. Order now in time for the holidays!

# Knicks defeat Magic, 121-106, to reach NBA Cup quarterfinals

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Karl-Anthony Towns had 23 points and 15 rebounds, Jalen Brunson scored 21 points and the New York Knicks beat the Orlando Magic 121-106 on Tuesday to reach the quarterfinals of the NBA Cup.

New York went 4-0 in East Group A and will host Atlanta on Dec. 11. Orlando (3-1) advanced as the East wild card and will travel to Milwaukee.

Mikal Bridges had 19 points and Josh Hart added 11 points and 10 rebounds for the Knicks, who have won their last three games and eight of their last 10.

Franz Wagner finished with 30 points while Moritz Wagner had 20 off the bench for the Magic, who had their six-game winning streak snapped.

The Magic needed only to lose by no more than 37 points to advance via tiebreaker.

New York led by 36-26 at the end of the first quarter and led by as many as 22 points in the second before going into the half with a 71-51 lead.

AP

New York Knicks guard Josh Hart (3) passes to center Karl-Anthony Towns (32) during the first half of an NBA Cup basketball game against the Orlando Magic, Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024, in New York, N.Y.

### CAVALIERS 118, WIZARDS 87

**CLEVELAND** (AP)—Donovan Mitchell scored 19 points and Evan Mobley had 19 points and 10 rebounds as Cleveland beat Washington, extending thier losing streak to 15.

Sam Merrill and Georges Niang each scored 14 points off the bench for Cleveland, which has the best record in the NBA at 19-3 and is 12-1 at home. The 31-point win was the Cavaliers' largest of the season.

Cleveland point guard Darius Garland had 12 points before leaving with a head injury in the third quarter. Garland was struck by an inadvertent elbow from Wizards center Jonas Valanciunas in the paint. Coach Kenny Atkinson said Garland wasn't expect to miss any time.

Valanciunas, Jordan Poole and rookie Bub Carrington scored 13 points for Washington in the final NBA Cup game for both teams. Valanciunas also grabbed 11 rebounds in 19 minutes.

### BUCKS 128, PISTONS 107

**DETROIT** (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 28 points and Damian Lillard had 27, lifting surging Milwaukee to a win over Detroit and into the NBA Cup quarterfinals.

The Bucks, who won East Group B with a 4-0 record, have won seven straight and nine of 10.

Detroit was eliminated from the NBA Cup, dropping to 3-1 in the tournament. Cade Cunningham scored 23 points, Tobias Harris had 16, Tim Hardaway scored 15 and Jalen Duren added 11 for the Pistons.

Milwaukee's Gary Trent Jr. scored 16 points, Bobby Portis and Taurean Prince each scored 14 and A.J. Green added 11.

The hot-shooting Bucks led 36-31 after the first quarter and were ahead 78-59 at halftime in a game that simply wasn't competitive.

Antetokounmpo rested in the fourth quarter, after making 10 of 11 shots in 28 minutes. He also had eight assists and seven rebounds after having a triple-double in three of his previous six games.

### 76ERS 110, HORNETS 104

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.** (AP)—Paul George scored 29 points, Tyrese Maxey had eight of his 21 points in the final 30 seconds and Philadelphia won back-to-back games for the first time this season with a victory over Charlotte.

Jared McCain added 17 points off the bench and Kelly Oubre scored 14 for Philadelphia (5-14), which finished 2-2 in Group A NBA Cup play. Charlotte was 0-4. Neither team advanced out of pool play.

Brandon Miller had 34 points, and Nick Richards had a strong outing in his second game back from injury with 22 points and 14 rebounds. Charlotte (6-15) finished its homestand 0-5.

The Hornets got solid performances from both rookie draft picks as Tidjane Salaun recorded his first double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds and K.J. Simpson added eight points, nine assists and six rebounds.

Philadelphia led by double digits most of the game, but Charlotte rallied to take the lead with 1:32 left on Miller's seventh 3-pointer of the second half. But it was short-lived as Maxey's layup with 29.7 seconds put the 76ers ahead.

Maxey sealed the win with four more throws and a transition layup.

### RAPTORS 122, PACERS 111

**TORONTO** (AP)—Scottie Barnes scored a career-high 35 points, RJ Barrett added 29 and Toronto never trailed in a win over Indiana that extended their road losing streak to seven.

Jakob Poeltl had 17 points and 10 rebounds, and Ochai Agbaji scored 13 points for the Raptors, who led by 24 points in the third quarter.

Barnes shot 13 for 20 and had nine assists and six rebounds. His previous scoring high was 32 points, set twice.

Tyrese Haliburton scored 30 points for the Pacers, who have not won away from home since beating Dallas on Nov. 4. Bennedict Mathurin had 17 points, Myles Turner scored 16 and Obi Toppin added 15.

Indiana's Pascal Siakam fouled out with 13 points on 4-of-13 shooting against his former team. He was called for a technical foul in the fourth quarter.

The Raptors finished 1-3 in NBA Cup group play for the second straight year. The Pacers fell to 0-4 in the tournament.

### THUNDER 133, JAZZ 106

**OKLAHOMA CITY** (AP)—Jalen Williams scored 28 points, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 26 points, seven assists and six rebounds, and Oklahoma City beat Utah.

Isaiah Joe had 19 points and fellow reserve Aaron Wiggins finished with 16 as the Thunder closed out West Group B play at 3-1. They would win the group if Phoenix beat San Antonio later Tuesday.

Alexander, selected as Western Conference player of the month earlier Tuesday, scored 15 points after halftime. Oklahoma City twice led by as many as 30 points in the second half.

Isaiah Hartenstein had four points and five rebounds, his first game without at least 10 points and 10 boards in six games since returning from a fractured hand.

Collin Sexton scored 17 points while Walker Kessler and John Collins added 15 apiece for the Jazz, who fell to 4-17.

### MAVERICKS 121, GRIZZLIES 116

**DALLAS** (AP)—Luka Doncic had 37 points and 12 rebounds, Spencer Dinwiddie and P.J. Washington Jr. hit clutch 3-pointers in the final two minutes, and Dallas overcame a 15-point deficit to beat Memphis to keep alive their chances of advancing to the NBA Cup quarterfinals.

The Mavericks needed a win and help on the final night of group play to earn the West wild-card spot.

Dallas trailed 111-103 with 3:34 to play and went on a 16-3 run capped by two 3-pointers from Dinwiddie and one from Washington.

Washington scored 18 points, Dereck Lively II had 17 points and 11 rebounds, and Dinwiddie scored 16 for the Mavericks, who have won a season-high five consecutive games and nine of their last 10.

Ja Morant scored a season-high 31 points, 15 in the fourth period, for the Grizzlies. They had a season-high six-game winning streak snapped and were eliminated from the Cup race.

Desmond Bane added 19 points while Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 14 of his 16 in the first half.

After Dallas took a 60-57 lead into the second half, the Grizzlies dominated the third period 38-22. The Mavericks answered back in the fourth, 39-21.

### SUNS 104, SPURS 93

**PHOENIX** (AP)—Devin Booker scored 29 points and Phoenix weathered the loss of Kevin Durant to an ankle injury to beat San Antonio.

Durant left the game with 3:51 to play in the second quarter and did not return. He headed to the locker room under his own power, and the Suns later said he hurt an ankle without providing any specifics. He finished with 13 points.

Though Oklahoma City won West Group B in the NBA Cup, the Suns were hoping to earn a wild-card berth into the quarterfinals. But they were eliminated when Dallas beat Memphis.

### ROCKETS 120, KINGS 111

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** (AP)—Domantas Sabonis scored 27 points and Sacramento made 15 straight shots from the field to beat Houston 120-111 on Tuesday night and deny the Rockets the top seed in the NBA Cup quarterfinals.

The shooting spree by the Kings turned an eight-point deficit late in the second quarter into a 12-point lead midway through the third to give the Kings their only win in four NBA Cup games.

De'Aaron Fox added 22 points, Malik Monk had 17 points and a career-high 12 assists, and DeMar DeRozan scored 16.

The Rockets won their first three games in the NBA Cup and could have clinched the top seed in the West with a win over the Kings. Houston will host Golden State in the quarterfinals.

Jalen Green scored 28 to lead Houston and Alperen Sengun added 24.

### NUGGETS 119, WARRIORS 115

**DENVER** (AP)—Nikola Jokic had 38 points, 10 rebounds and five steals to rally the Denver Nuggets to a 119-115 victory over the Golden State Warriors on Tuesday night.

Jokic fell four assists shy of his NBA-leading ninth triple-double of the season. The reigning league MVP remained tied with Magic Johnson for the third-most triple-doubles in NBA history with 138.

Michael Porter Jr. added 22 points and Aaron Gordon had 15 points and nine rebounds for Denver.

The loss was the fifth in a row for Golden State following a 12-3 start and means the Warriors will travel to Houston next week for the NBA Cup quarterfinals.

Steph Curry had 24 points, 11 assists and seven rebounds for the Warriors, though was just 4 for 15 on 3-pointers. Jonathan Kuminga added 19 points.

Trailing 90-85 entering the fourth quarter, the Warriors rattled off a 19-4 run to take a 104-94 lead. But Denver came back and went ahead on a pair of free throws by Gordon with 48 seconds remaining.

Golden State was without defensive anchor Draymond Green, who was sidelined with left calf tightness.

### CLIPPERS 127, TRAIL BLAZERS 105

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Norman Powell scored 30 points, James Harden had 23 and the Los Angeles Clippers beat the Portland Trail Blazers 127-105 on Tuesday night.

Amir Coffey scored 19 points, hitting five 3-pointers, and Derrick Jones Jr. added 15 for Clippers. Los Angeles shot 55.3% from the field and was 19 of 37 (51.4%) from 3-point range en route to a season high in points.

DeAndre Ayton scored 16 points and Shaedon Sharpe and Deni Avdija each had 15 for Portland.

The Clippers and Trail Blazers each finished 2-2 in NBA Cup West Group A play. Neither team advanced out of pool play.

# Sterling Sharpe, Mike Holmgren picked as Hall of Fame finalists

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Pro Football Writer

Prolific receiver Sterling Sharpe and Super Bowl-winning coach Mike Holmgren advanced to the final stage of voting for the 2025 Pro Football Hall of Fame class.

Sharpe was picked as one of three finalists in the Seniors category for players whose career ended in 1999 or earlier, along with Maxie Baughan and Jim Tyrer, in voting results announced Tuesday. Holmgren was picked as the lone finalist in the coaching category and Ralph Hay, who helped found the NFL more than a century ago, was the finalist in the contributor category.

The five will be grouped together for voting by the full selection committee in January. Voters can pick three of the candidates, meaning a maximum of three can reach the 80% threshold needed for induction. If no one gets 80% of the votes, then the leading vote-getter will get into the Hall.

The selection committee will vote separately on 15 finalists from the modern era, with the 2025 inductees being announced during Super Bowl week in New Orleans in February.

AP

This is an Aug. 6, 2011 file photo showing Sterling Sharpe at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. Sharpe was elected to the College Football Hall of Fame Thursday, May 22, 2014.

Sharpe had a short but productive career for the Green Bay Packers from 1988-94. His best season came in 1992, when he became the sixth player to win the receiving triple crown, setting set an NFL record with 108 catches for 1,461 yards and 13 touchdowns.

He broke his own record with 112 catches in 1993 and led the NFL with 18 touchdown receptions in his final season, 1994, before a neck injury cut his career short.

Sharpe was a three-time All-Pro and had 595 catches for 8,134 yards and 65 TDs. He trailed only Jerry Rice over his seven-year career in receptions and TD catches.

Baughan was one of the top linebackers in the game in the 1960s for Philadelphia and the Los Angeles Rams. He helped the Eagles win an NFL title as a rookie in 1960 and made nine Pro Bowls in a 10-year span with one first-team and five second-team All-Pro selections.

Tyrer was a six-time All-Pro and member of the AFL all-decade team for the 1960s as the left tackle protecting Len Dawson on the Kansas City Chiefs. He won three AFL titles and one Super Bowl with the Chiefs franchise before ending his career with Washington in 1974.

Tyrer was considered a shoo-in for the Hall of Fame at the time of his retirement. Every other nonspecialist who was a six-time All-Pro and is eligible for the Hall has been inducted.

But shortly after he was picked as a finalist for the first time, Tyrer shot his wife in a murder-suicide in September 1980. Tyrer had been dealing with depression and severe headaches that experts now believe might have been CTE, the degenerative brain disease that has been found in many former NFL players who endured repeated blows to their heads in their career. CTE can be diagnosed only posthumously.

Tyrer didn't get voted in that year and wasn't nominated again until this year.

Sharpe and Baughan were never finalists during their time in the modern era category.

Holmgren was one of the most influential offensive coaches, starting with his time as an assistant on two Super Bowl champion teams in San Francisco.

He went on to coach Green Bay for seven seasons, winning a Super Bowl following the 1996 season. He coached 10 years in Seattle and finished with a 161-111 record, going to three Super Bowls overall.

Holmgren also had a big impact on future coaches, with Andy Reid and Jon Gruden going on to win Super Bowls after working under him in Green Bay.

Hay owned the Canton Bulldogs from 1918-22 and hosted the meeting the led to the formation of the NFL. He beat out a group of semifinalists that included six-time Super Bowl champion owner

# Analysis: Getting benched may have been best thing that happened to Bryce Young, Anthony Richardson

By ROB MAADDI AP
Pro Football Writer

Getting benched may have been the best thing that happened to Bryce Young and Anthony Richardson.

Both second-year quarterbacks are playing well since returning to the starting lineup.

Young has steadily improved after coming back in Week 8. He's displayed the skills that earned him a Heisman Trophy at Alabama and convinced the Carolina Panthers to draft him ahead of C.J. Stroud with the No. 1 overall pick in 2023.

Young had his best game on Sunday, nearly leading Carolina to an overtime win over Tampa Bay if it weren't for Chuba Hubbard's fumble in field-goal range. He threw for 298 yards and a go-ahead touchdown pass in the final minute of a 26-23 loss.

Young almost led the Panthers to a win over the two-time defending Super Bowl champion Chiefs a week earlier only to see Patrick Mahomes drive Kansas City into position for a winning field goal as time expired.

Rookie coach Dave Canales benched Young for veteran Andy Dalton after just two games in which he had a 44.1 passer rating.

The 23-year-old has completed 60.4% of his passes for 1,062 yards, six TDs and three interceptions — none in the past three games — while going 2-3 in the five starts since Young got another opportunity to lead the Panthers (3-9).

Richardson has led Indianapolis to a pair of comeback wins late in the fourth quarter in three starts after he regained his starting job. The Colts (6-7) selected Richardson No. 4 last year and he started just 10 games before coach Shane Steichen benched him for Joe Flacco in Week 9.

Richardson completed only 44.4% of his passes with four TDs and seven picks in his first six starts. He's improved to 52.4% with three TDs and two picks since coming back. The 22-year-old tossed a 3-yard TD pass to Alec Pierce on fourth-and-goal with 12 seconds remaining and then ran in for a 2-point conversion to lift the Colts to a 25-24 win over New England on Sunday.

Young and Richardson both have a long way to go to prove they can be franchise quarterbacks. But there's far more optimism now that they're not busts.

Young is on his third head coach and second offensive coordinator in two seasons. Canales is known for getting the best out of quarterbacks, helping Geno Smith and Baker Mayfield revive their careers.

AP

Carolina Panthers quarterback Bryce Young is sacked by Tampa Bay Buccaneers defensive tackle Calijah Kancey during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024, in Charlotte, N.C.

He made a bold decision to bench Young after just two games but that allowed him to watch, grow and learn without the pressure of having to perform.

Now it appears Young might have a future in Carolina when that seemed unlikely in September.

Richardson just needs more experience. He threw only 393 passes in college and started four games as a rookie before he was injured. Steichen's decision to bench him for Flacco didn't work out. Flacco, who was the AP NFL Comeback Player of the Year last year after leading Cleveland to the playoffs by going 4-1 in five starts, struggled in two games.

Still, that gave Richardson a chance to reset after tapping out for a play in the game before he was benched.

Quarterbacks need time to develop. They can't be judged fairly after one or two seasons, especially when they were high draft picks who joined bad teams that lacked talent.

Clock management blunders

Matt Eberflus lost his job as Chicago's head coach a day after he watched the offense run out of time with a timeout in hand, missing an opportunity to push Detroit to overtime on Thanksgiving.

But Antonio Pierce made an even worse decision on Black Friday that cost the Raiders a chance to beat the Chiefs. Aidan O'Donnell drove Las Vegas to the Chiefs 32 with 15 seconds left. Instead of trying for a game-winning field goal down 19-17, Pierce wanted O'Donnell to take the snap, allow more time to tick and throw the ball away. But O'Donnell wasn't ready for the snap, the Chiefs recovered the fumble and escaped with the win.

aManaging the clock shouldn't be this difficult for NFL head coaches.

Tucker's troubles

Ravens kicker Justin Tucker is having the worst season of his 13-year career. If he wasn't one of the best kickers in NFL history, Baltimore would've made a switch already.

But coach John Harbaugh has too much respect for Tucker, who began the season as the most accurate kicker in league history. Tucker has missed a career-high eight field-goal attempts, including two in a 24-19 loss to Philadelphia.

Harbaugh, a former special teams coach, isn't planning to replace Tucker. But the Ravens (8-5) have Super Bowl aspirations and Tucker needs to straighten things out.

One solution would be to place him on injured reserve to work on his technique. In this case, Tucker has earned the right not to be released. Plus, he's signed through 2027.

# Safety first for over 150 bikers in HOM on Dec. 7

Tourism partners are putting safety first for the 155 bikers signed up for Saturday's Hell of the Marianas century cycle on Saipan.

Ten countries and territories are represented in the pack, including the Netherlands, Russia, Ireland, U.S., Canada, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, and the Marianas. The lineup includes the return of the 2023 race professional division winners Ryohei Fujita and Rinichiro Shigeta of Japan for the men and Miso Kim of Korea for the women.

"It's all systems 'go' and a nice weather forecast for Saturday, and bikers will be taking off from Marpi bright and early at 6am," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We encourage all drivers to drive slowly, exercise caution, and obey all traffic officers along the route, heading from Marpi to Beach Rd. and down to Koblerville, through Papago to Windward Rd., down Capitol Hill to Suicide Cliff and back. Good luck, bikers!"

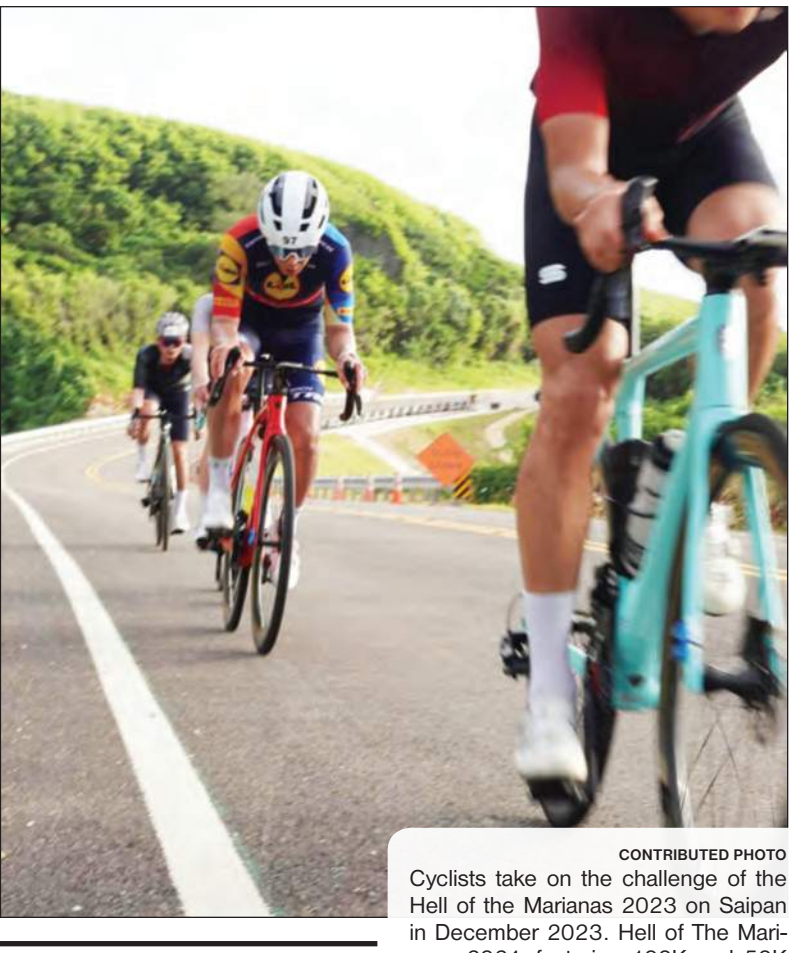
All dog owners along the route are reminded to tie or fence their pets on Saturday morning for the protection of bikers.

"It's going to be a grueling three hours or more—a test of sheer physical and mental strength," said Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation president Vince Seman. "Thank you to all our event sponsors and organizers for joining the federation and the MVA in making 2024 Hell of the Marianas possible. We invite everyone to come out and cheer for our bikers!"

The race is sponsored by TSL Foundation, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, United Airlines, Hawaiian Rock Product, Saipan Bike Pro, Seman Law Offices, Latte Built, and TurnKey Solutions. Event supporters are Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Works, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and Parks and Recreation.

The Hell of the Marianas features a 100-kilometer course that winds its way through Saipan's hills, valleys, and scenic byways. Participants must navigate 4,900 feet of ascents, including steep climbs and fast descents, making it a true test of endurance and skill. The event is open to both amateur and professional riders.

For more information, contact Seman at nmicycling@gmail.com. ***(PR)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Cyclists take on the challenge of the Hell of the Marianas 2023 on Saipan in December 2023. Hell of The Marianas 2024—featuring 100K and 50K courses—returns on Dec. 7, 2024, and is organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation.

LEIGH GASES
Man Amigas' Rosie Saralu sprints to home plate safely during their game against the Batties in the NMI Softball Association Women's League 2024 last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field.

## AMIGAS

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more for a 13-10 final.

In other results, Wettz took down the Dirty Diamonds, also 13-10, and the 670 Babes shot down the Lady Blue Jays, 16-11.

Behind the Man Amigas in the standings are the Batties and Wettz with a 4-2 record each; 670 Babes are at 2-4; and the Dirty Diamonds and Lady Blue Jays have a 1-5 record each.

In the individual standings as of Game 5, the Man Amigas' Kianu Aldan is the leading batter with an impressive .812 average from 13 hits out of 16 at-bats. Jovie Omar from the Batties is second with a .666 average from 10 hits out of 15 plate appearances; and third is Pauline Camacho from the 670 Babes is third at .615 from eight hits out of 13 at-bats.

The pitching leaders will be announced at a later date.

## MHS

*From page 16*

minutes into the game. However, the tide died down on both sides with no goals let through until the 25th minute. The Dolphins' Tyler Omelau doubled their lead as he sliced through SSHS' defenses with the precision of a dorsal fin cutting through waves.

But the Manta Rays finally got on the board three minutes later from Monico Claridades, making it a close 1-2 game.

They then navigated through the pitch like a ship stuck out on a stormy sea—both sides struggling intensely for possession and the upper hand. The Dolphins then found some net as the sun dipped below the horizon and employed high-pressure tactics that became a feeding frenzy of three back-to-back goals—all within six minutes for a 5-1 lead.

From there, the Dolphins didn't let up as Omelau completed his hat-trick in the 53rd minute, then followed it up with his fourth goal just four minutes later—bringing their lead up, 7-1. Before SSHS could even score their second goal, MHS' Paul Lizama made it 8-1 in the 65th.

The only other goal SSHS could reel in was by Anthony Austria in the 67th. The ninth goal by MHS was made just a minute from a hat-trick by Lizama for a 9-2 final.

In other results that day, Saipan International School JV blanked MHS JV, 2-0.

Last Tuesday, SIS V overpowered MHS JV, 9-0; and Kagman High School Ayuyus outgoaled Mount Carmel School, 13-3.

## SIS

*From page 16*

champions Kagman Elementary School Blue Marlins.

In their games last Saturday, SIS Geckos 1 slipped past WSR 2, 10-7.

It was a close game throughout as both teams struggled with possession and converting their attempts at the basket. However, the Geckos made some shots stick in the first half as Rose Racine broke the ice. After more attempts from both sides, Carver Gross swished back-to-back field goals to end the first half, 6-0.

The Kingfishers finally found an opening as K-Son Martino sunk their first 2 points in the second half. They made for a comeback as 2 more points scored by James Palacios and another by Martino again, but SIS was determined to keep the lead.

In the end, Gabriel Walsh and Gross converted the 4 points needed to secure their win as the Kingfishers fell short by just three points.

For SIS 2, they overpowered Brilliant Star School, 14-4.

The only 4 points scored by BSS was by Jaydin Camacho—2 in the first and 2 in the second half. Meanwhile, the Geckos led by 2, 4-2, at the end of the first from points by Victoria Kim and Tim Watson.

The Geckos then went on a tear in the second half as they scored 10 points—2 more by Watson, 6 more by Kim, then 2 from Guy Pudney.

In other results that day, KES defeated KobES 2, 18-7; KobES 1 outplayed GES 2, 44-11; SVES 1 blanked GCA, 24-0; GES 1 took down GTC, 16-10; and OES edged SVES 2, 21-3.

The playoffs start today, with the championship round set for this Saturday, Dec. 7.

**First Game**

**SIS 1 10** – Racine 4, Gross 4, Walsh 2.

**WSR 2 7** – Martino 4, Palacios 2, Manglona 1.

**Scoring by halves:** 8-2; 10-7.

**Second Game**

**SIS 2 14** – Kim 8, Watson 4, Pudney 2.

**BSS 4** – Camacho 4.

**Scoring by halves:** 4-2, 14-4.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

| Atlantic Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boston | 17 | 4 | .810 | – |
| New York | 13 | 8 | .619 | 4 |
| Brooklyn | 9 | 13 | .409 | 8½ |
| Toronto | 7 | 15 | .318 | 10½ |
| Philadelphia | 5 | 14 | .263 | 11 |
| **Southeast Division** | | | | |
| Orlando | 15 | 8 | .652 | – |
| Atlanta | 11 | 11 | .500 | 3½ |
| Miami | 9 | 10 | .474 | 4 |
| Charlotte | 6 | 15 | .286 | 8 |
| Washington | 2 | 17 | .105 | 11 |
| **Central Division** | | | | |
| Cleveland | 19 | 3 | .864 | – |
| Milwaukee | 11 | 9 | .550 | 7 |
| Chicago | 9 | 13 | .409 | 10 |
| Indiana | 9 | 13 | .409 | 10 |
| Detroit | 9 | 14 | .391 | 10½ |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

| Southwest Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Houston | 15 | 7 | .682 | – |
| Dallas | 14 | 8 | .636 | 1 |
| Memphis | 14 | 8 | .636 | 1 |
| San Antonio | 11 | 10 | .524 | 3½ |
| New Orleans | 4 | 18 | .182 | 11 |
| **Northwest Division** | | | | |
| Oklahoma City | 16 | 5 | .762 | – |
| Denver | 11 | 8 | .579 | 4 |
| Minnesota | 10 | 10 | .500 | 5½ |
| Portland | 8 | 14 | .364 | 8½ |
| Utah | 4 | 17 | .190 | 12 |
| **Pacific Division** | | | | |
| L.A. Clippers | 14 | 9 | .609 | – |
| Phoenix | 12 | 8 | .600 | ½ |
| Golden State | 12 | 8 | .600 | ½ |
| L.A. Lakers | 12 | 9 | .571 | 1 |
| Sacramento | 10 | 12 | .455 | 3½ |

Knicks defeat Magic, 121-106, to reach NBA Cup quarterfinals

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Sports

Safety first for over 150 bikers in HOM on Dec. 7

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# SIS notches wins as playoffs set for co-ed hoops

LEIGH GASES

Saipan International School 2's team listens to their coach in a huddle after their game in the 2024-2025 IT&E Interscholastic Co-ed Elementary School Basketball League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan International School's two teams notched wins in the last regular season games in the 2024-2025 IT&E Interscholastic Co-ed Elementary School Basketball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

They both secured a playoffs spot with Koblerville Elementary School 1 and 2, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary Schoo Binadus, Garapan Elementary School Mallards 1 and 2, Oleai Elementary School Turtles, Tinian Elementary School Colts, San Vicente Elementary School Canaries 1, William S. Reyes Elementary School Kingfishers 1, and defending

See SIS on Page 15

LEIGH GASES

Saipan International School 2's Guy Pudney brings the ball down during one of their games in the 2024-2025 IT&E Interscholastic Co-ed Elementary School Basketball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

# Undefeated Man Amigas survive Batties, 13-10

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The undefeated Man Amigas survived yet another game to keep their win streak intact at six in the NMI Softball Association Women's League 2024 last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field.

They beat the Batties, 13-10, after they tried to rally in the last innings.

The Man Amigas scored early and held onto their lead until the end. After the first inning, they sported a 4-0 lead from runs made by leadoff batter Jaylina Borja, Kianu Aldan, Tal Obakrairur, and Evita Maratita.

The Batties could only score one off Man Amigas pitcher Maratita and were still down, 1-4, after the top of the second. The Man Amigas continued to add to their lead from there as Borja scored once again, followed by another from Alannah Sablan to make it a 6-1 game.

From there, the Batties' runs trickled in slowly until the fifth when they put up four runs to get within three, 8-11. However, the Man Amigas added two more insurance runs in the fifth and the sixth which was enough to secure the win when the Batties rounded the bases just twice

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LEIGH GASES

Man Amigas pitcher Evita Maratita tosses a pitch during their game against the Batties in the NMI Softball Association Women's League 2024 last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field.

# MHS drowns SSHS, 9-2 in boys soccer

NMIFA

A Marianas High School player, right, in action during one of their games in the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Boys High School Soccer League 2024-2025 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Defending champions Marianas High School Dolphins drowned out Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays, 9-2, in the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Boys High School Soccer League 2024-2025 last Monday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The nearby ocean's roar seemed to echo through the pitch with the tidal clash of the league's top two teams. After the matchup, they are both tied with a 3-0-1 record each.

The Dolphins surged ahead early on as Takeru Jim whiplashed one past the goalie just three

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